

Hafa Adai!

Rain didn't hinder mounting of cross. PAGE 2
Man injured in Garapan stabbing. PAGE 4

Saipan Tribune

THE CNMI'S FIRST DAILY NEWSPAPER

Volume XXVII, Issue No. 75

www.saipantribune.com

MONDAY APRIL 17, 2017

www.facebook.com/saipantribune

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ERWIN T. ENCINARES

MCC International workers protest with signs while chanting "MCC pay us!" The workers have refused to work for two weeks and demand to be paid their wages from February to April before being sent home at the expense of MCC.

'No money, no passport, no work'

By ERWIN ENCINARES
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REPORTER

About 50 MCC International construction workers broke into protest last Friday over alleged unpaid wages of up to three months.

The contractor of Imperial Pacific International's casino project in Garapan has allegedly failed to give their construction workers wages of up to three months, leaving them with no money to use for their everyday necessities.

MCC workers demand back wages before going home

other protester claimed he first paid an amount of \$5,000 to an agent in China. He said the same agent failed to educate the workers on proper employment procedures in the CNMI.

Another protester claimed they were promised \$1,742 (¥12,000) monthly, only to be disappointed with a monthly salary of \$1,016 (¥7,000).

See NO MONEY on Page 4

Kilili: Illegal labor practices could hurt NMI's efforts

By JON PEREZ
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REPORTER

Delegate Gregorio Kilili C. Sablan (D-MP) said illegal labor practices by some companies, especially construction firms, could hurt the efforts being done by CNMI

business and government leaders in trying to find a solution to an impending worker shortage.

The Federal Bureau of Investigation, last month,



Sablan

uncovered that two construction companies, MCC International and Belinda Overseas, have allegedly employed Chinese laborers for the Imperial Pacific Resort project

who entered Saipan as tourists.

The FBI made an arrest last March 30 based on their investigation that both companies allegedly violated the federal workplace visa system and other federal statutes.

See KILILI on Page 4

OPA AUDIT RECOMMENDS:

'CUC should consider revising corporate structure'

By ERWIN ENCINARES
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REPORTER

The CNMI Office of the Public Auditor said in a draft audit completed last month that the Commonwealth Utilities Corp. is unable to operate as an independent public

agency due to interferences by Legislature, various governors, and past board of directors.

The audit, obtained by *Saipan Tribune* yesterday, covered a review of the CUC legal structure, management practices, financial performance, and

other relevant documents from 1985 to the present.

The OPA found that CUC is better off with a total overhaul of its corporate structure and recommends that CUC be revised as a cooperative, municipal corporation, or private entity.

CUC under a cooperative corporate structure calls for the election of a board of directors by the users of the utility. Any profit obtained by the users would be paid back in the form of dividends. The cooperative corporate structure

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INSIDE



BUSINESS

Delta is letting employees offer customers nearly \$10,000 in compensation to give up seats on overbooked flights.

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ASIA

A North Korean missile exploded during launch Sunday, U.S. and South Korean officials said.

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FOCUS

Once soft on Russia and hard on China, President Donald Trump rapidly reversed course in the last weeks.

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Local

GOOD FRIDAY TREK UP MT. TAPOCHAO

Rain didn't hinder mounting of cross

KIMBERLY A. BAUTISTA

A rainbow appears after volunteers successfully mount the 28-foot tall cross at the peak of Mt. Tapochao and last Friday.

See photo gallery on Page 18



By KIMBERLY A. BAUTISTA
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REPORTER

Hard rain did not stop devotees from mounting the 28-foot tall cross at the peak of Mt. Tapochao last Friday.

All the participants of the Mt. Tapochao trek and those who witnessed the mounting of the cross that took place at the mountain's peak last Good Friday experienced a sudden downpour of heavy and hard rain. The rain came out of nowhere but it cleared just as fast as it came.

Although there was rain, devotees continued their work to ensure that the cross was mounted safely and properly.

The 28-foot tall cross was made new again this year. The family of Tom Palacios makes the cross annually. According to Palacios, he benefits nothing from his volunteer work. He is a firm believer of Christ and his death on the cross, but that is not his purpose in annually sculpting a new cross for the past 36 years. To Palacios, he prays that the cross he built opens the heart of another in receiving Christ in their lives.

Hundreds participated in the trek. Some participated to gain the experience, some participated out of religion, and

some just came for exercise and healthy living.

Dianne Sabino, a devotee, made her way up the mountain alongside her daughter Friday morning. When asked why, Sabino simply explained that it was for God. She believes that this is one of the ways to truly show that the death of Christ will always be remembered as an act of love and not just suffering.

A bicycle group that calls itself Saipan Cyclers was also present at the trek. The group has been participating in the trek since 2011, according to their representative Arvin Bacani. He said the trek is their way of enjoying a healthy living on Good Friday.

The trek had many organizations there too that offered refreshments like water, fruits, and light food like bread and congee.

Organizations that offered refreshments during the trek were the United Filipino Organization, the Lady Diann Foundation, American Red Cross-NMI Chapter, and more. They were set up, some even as early as Thursday, along the road ready to offer what they could to all participants of the trek.

This year's trek was signifi-

cant for the Lady Diann Foundation. The foundation was not conjoined with the Office of the Governor at this year's trek. According to First Lady Diann Torres, this year's trek is the second year that her foundation volunteered, but this year is the year that her foundation had set up their own stop.

Government offices such as the Governor's Office and the Saipan Mayor's Office were also there to distribute refreshments.

Besides refreshments, the mayor's office also helped pave the road up Mt. Tapochao a few weeks prior to the trek for the safety of all devotees and participants.

Department of Public Safety had officers present last Friday for safety measures with an ambulance ready at the base of the mountain.

Father James Balajadia from the St. Jude Parish on Saipan explains that the significance of this tradition is for Catholic worshippers to mirror the sacrifices that God experienced on the path to calvary as he carried the cross he was crucified on.

Balajadia also mentions in an interview that the trek and carrying of the cross

represents the cross that is carried by every individual through every day suffering. Good Friday is the day

that all those sufferings can be united in Christ. According to Balajadia, in the Catholic faith, the cross

symbolizes humility, how to love and serve one another, and how to be humble and have courage.

Providers' Week celebration kicks off tomorrow

The CNMI Child Care Providers Association's celebration of Providers' Week will begin tomorrow, April 18, as the group has lined up a series of activities to recognize the contributions of the providers to early childhood education.

To start with, families of young children enrolled in the association's member schools/centers will be interviewed by the staff of KWAW Magic 100.3 on the important roles of child care providers in our young children's development. It will be aired on Tuesday from 4:30pm to 5pm.

Then on Wednesday, child care centers and their students will do the roadside waving at the Atkins Kroll crossing from 5pm to 6pm to raise awareness on early childhood education. The event will then be followed by the Thank You Thursday with parents requested to give any token of appreciation to their child's teacher/caregiver. The Providers' Week will culminate with a Family



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
A childcare provider engages young children in an education play activity. The CNMI Child Care Providers Association will celebrate Providers' Week starting tomorrow.

Fun Night set for April 21 at

the Pedro P. Tenorio Multi-Purpose Center. Each member of the CNMI Child Care Providers Association has prepared a special presentation to entertain parents and their children attending the event.

CNMI Child Care Providers Association president Milagros Songcuan of Pure Love Daycare said Providers' Week is part of the celebration of the Early Child-

hood Education Month.

"We applaud all providers, administrators, and educators for doing a tremendous job in assuring the safety and providing quality care and education to our young children. Let us join Smart Start, Loving Hands Daycare, Ghana Daycare, Golden Harvest School, R&Q Daycare/Night Care, and Pure Love Daycare in this week-long celebration," Songcuan said. (PR)

Man wanted in South Carolina agrees to be removed

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
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REPORTER

The federal court ordered on Friday the transfer to the District of South Carolina a man who was indicted in 2015 with false statement in that district and was arrested last Thursday on Saipan.

U.S. District Court for the NMI Chief Judge Ramona V. Manglona directed the U.S. Marshal Service to transfer Tarrell Darnell Murphy, who waived his right to have an identity hearing.

Murphy did not dispute that it was him who was indicted in South Carolina and is the subject of an arrest warrant.

Murphy, who was represented by attorney Bruce Berline, has also agreed to volun-

tary removal.

Manglona said Murphy will be held pending his transfer.

Berline asked about the time frame to transfer Murphy.

"I'm concerned about lengthy detention here," Berline said.

U.S. Marshal Don Hall said they will be moving quickly with the transfer, which may take place within 10 calendar days.

The U.S. District Court for the District of South Carolina issued the arrest warrant on July 30, 2015.

According to court documents, the District of Carolina issued the arrest warrant against Murphy for failure to appear for initial appearance on a supervised release violation scheduled for July 21,

2015 at 10am.

According to an indictment, on March 2, 2015 in the District of South Carolina, Murphy "knowingly made a false statement in an application for a passport with intent to induce and secure for his own use the issuance of a passport."

In that application, Murphy allegedly assumed the identity of "Demetrius Rakim McIlwain," which identify he knew to be false.

Court documents did not indicate the specific place on Saipan where the defendant was arrested.

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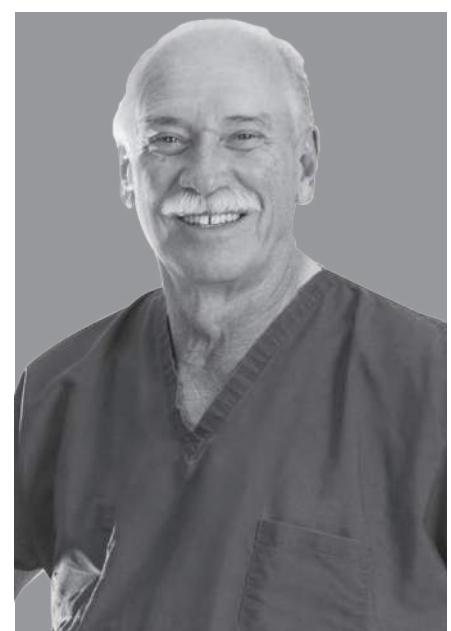
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4.8 magnitude earthquake jolts Mariana Islands

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
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REPORTER

Many Saipan residents felt the 4.8 magnitude earthquake that jolted the Mariana Islands last Friday at 3:50pm.

According to the U.S. Geological Service, the earthquake's epicenter was 28 kilometers north-east of Rota at a depth of 109.4 kilometers.

Based on available data, there was no tsunami threat.

Saipan Tribune learned that there were no reports of inju-

ries or damage to property.

Liza, a resident of Saipan, said she was working on her desk, when she felt the shaking for a brief period. She said she felt dizzy after the tremor.

A resident of Chalan Kanoa on Saipan said the jolt last-

See EARTHQUAKE on Next Page

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Man injured in Garapan stabbing

A 24-year-old man was stabbed and injured by another man during their argument in an apartment in western Garapan on Thursday night.

The victim, a Chinese national, suffered injuries on the chest and left arm. He was transported to the Commonwealth Health Center's emergency room for further treatment after medics stabilized his condition.

The suspect who was identified as Chuannian Bi, 45, a Chinese national, also suffered a laceration on his face. He was arrested for assault and battery and assault with a dangerous weapon.

Department of Public Safety acting spokesman Jason Tarkong said yesterday that DPS Central dispatched Kaban Bike Patrol officers to Queens Apartment in western Gar-

pan on Thursday at 9:10pm after receiving a report about a stabbing incident.

Witnesses brought the officers to the victim, who was bleeding at that time due to his injuries. Department of Fire and Emergency Medical Services medics arrived at the area and stabilized the victim and transported him to CHC.

Police learned that the vic-

tim and the suspect were heard arguing at their room on the fourth floor of the apartment.

During the argument, witnesses discovered the victim on the floor with injuries, while the suspect fled the scene.

It took several bystanders to stop the altercation, Tarkong said.

Officers canvassed the area and arrested Bi, who was also later taken to the hospital for laceration. After a doctor gave clearance, Bi was arrested and

taken to the Department of Corrections.

The victim was admitted to the hospital for observation.

"This case is still under further investigation," Tarkong said.

CUC

From Page 1

has seen its success in Hawaii as the Kauai electrical cooperative.

OPA wrote that the municipal corporation is similar to CUC's current legal structure and allows for the direct election of the corporation's board of directors, which in turn hires the executive director to run the organization. According to the OPA, this structure has seen some success in Guam.

Privatization, the last and definitely the least recommended by the OPA, was seen as an alternative since it was allowed under current law. It was, however, noted by the OPA that the legislative mandated value of the assets are unrealistic at \$259 million.

With the privatization of CUC, the OPA predicts that a higher rate structure would be seen.

Also taken into consideration by the OPA in regards to the privatization of CUC is the CNMI and CUC history of attracting qualified investors and conducting the transfer of authority and assets in a transparent and accountable manner is "very uncertain."

"This model would also require a highly experienced and legally able public utility commission to monitor and regulate the rate structures," wrote the OPA.

The draft audit was sent to CUC board chair Adelina Roberto and CUC executive director Gary Camacho. CUC was given 30 days since then to submit their response but it is yet to be known whether CUC has issued a formal response on the audit.

CUC might have been destined for failure

CUC documents from 1985 showed that various interferences have affected its sustainability. According to the OPA draft audit, "the Legislature, despite requiring CUC to recover all costs through an adequate rate structure, passed laws that did not provide CUC with sufficient autonomy to do so and, on occasion, legislated rate and fee reductions."

"No other CNMI autonomous agency has experienced this degree of legislative and executive branch interference," wrote the OPA in the draft audit.

The report did not mention what triggered the argument and what type of weapon was used. The report also did not indicate whether the two are tourists or workers. (*Ferdie de la Torre*)

members also contributed to the inability of CUC to financially sustain itself. CUC is mandated to adjust its rate structure so that collections sufficiently recover the cost of operations and delivery of utility services. However, a review of the CUC revenue performance done by the OPA indicates that utility rate levels have been insufficient to recover the full cost of operations since Fiscal Year 1988.

In light of CUC's failing financials, past CUC board members still pursued major projects.

CUC reported a deficit of \$76.5 million despite forgiveness of the Commonwealth Development Authority amounting to \$170.5 million in 2009. CDA agreed to an equity swap involving the forgiveness of accumulated interest and principal development loans in return for preferred stock issued by CUC to CDA.

The OPA also mentioned the influence of past governors. CNMI governors retained the authority to appoint the members of the CUC board of directors. Over the years, OPA found that CUC board members have begun submitting courtesy resignations at the election of a new governor, providing governors with continuing influence over the CUC board.

The governor's ability to declare emergencies and issue executive order further strengthens the governor's influence to the CUC board.

According to the OPA, emergencies allowed governors to provide emergency infusions of funds to CUC, suspend procurement regulations, override personnel legislation, effectively suspend the CUC board, suspend the Commonwealth Public Utilities Commission's regulating authority over CUC, initiate procurement contracts, and appoint CUC's executive director with full authority for CUC. For various reasons, governors have kept CUC under emergency declarations since 2005, wrote the OPA.

"We will make sure to calculate your unpaid wages and we will make sure you get paid every penny you worked for," assured DeLeon Guerrero to the group through the translator.

"We will make sure to calculate your unpaid wages and we will make sure you get paid every penny you worked for," assured DeLeon Guerrero to the group through the translator.

A hotel employee on Rota said she also did not feel and hear about the earthquake. She said she was at home at that time.

A Tinian police officer said he was on duty on Friday afternoon and that he and co-workers did not feel the tremor.

KILILI

From Page 1

There are also reports the two construction firms harbored individuals who are out-of-status.

Sablan, in a lengthy Facebook post, said both business and government leaders have supported his bill—House Resolution 339—that would give a temporary fix to the ongoing CNMI-Only Transitional Worker nonimmigrant visa program, where an estimated 6,000 slots were applied to be filled in by construction workers.

"News such as this hurts our efforts and lessens the chance of [the United States] Congress granting necessary legislative relief. This is for the short fix. Wait until we seek a long-term fix," said Sablan.

"Long-time businesses are hurt both short term and long term. Businesses which play by the rules, but were caught by surprise with the over 6,000 CW applications of some six construction companies."

He said businesses that follow federal and local labor laws have all the reason to be concerned with the current situation. "Their law abiding labor practices are being jeop-

ardized by unscrupulous businesses that will do anything, including the illegal hiring of foreign workers, for their selfish interest."

"They are hurt by companies which apply for hundreds or one thousand permits, and do not use them. While we welcome investments to the [CNMI], we cannot tolerate the bad business and hiring practice of a few companies."

Sablan said the CNMI's chances of getting foreign workers that would help fill the shortage of personnel like in the hospital, health clinics, bakeries, power plant engineers and mechanics, cooks,

bookkeepers, caregivers, teachers, and others would be hurt by the result of the said unlawful labor practice.

He added that getting some sort of relief from Congress is hard, but it could be more difficult this time with what's happened. "Seeing these dishonest practices happening at this time makes it more difficult. The questions being asked by members of Congress, particularly from leadership of committees of jurisdiction, are straightforward."

A longer version of this story is available at www.saipantribune.com

NO MONEY

From Page 1

Most of the protesters have already stopped working for two weeks.

During the protest, a letter in Chinese was handed to CNMI Labor Secretary Edith DeLeon Guerrero, demanding that MCC return the workers' down payment of \$5,000, the workers' full payment of their unpaid wages, and for the purchase of a return ticket to go back to their home country.

The protest was held right next to the ongoing construction site. Protesters were yelling, "MCC! Pay us!"

According to the protesters, about 191 workers are affected.

When protesters were asked whether they had any sort of interaction with MCC project manager Yuqing Zhao, who was arrested by federal authorities last April 3, the protesters declined to comment. Zhao and MCC electrician Pei Ruan were charged with unlawful employment of aliens and bringing in and harboring certain aliens.

DeLeon Guerrero collected the names of each protester.

"What we gathered from the interpreter is that the protesters wanted to take back their passports and go home. Another of their concerns is that they have been working in the CNMI as tourists and have been unpaid for more than three months," she said.

DeLeon Guerrero even added that MCC's provided lodging for the workers are "non-conducive for living, which is our primary concern."

According to DeLeon Guerrero, she would be reaching out to both government entities and non-profit organizations to provide assistance.

"My primary concern is to address the serious issue of unpaid wages, food concerns, lodging concerns, and the fact that they all came in as tourists without a valid work visa—obviously that is not something appropriate to do here in the CNMI—and for the workers to reclaim possession of their passports," she said.

Rep. Ed Propst (Ind-Saipan) was also present and gave out bread to the protesters after finding out that they did not have enough money to fund for their own necessities.

"No money, no passport, no work," said Propst, referring to what the protesters told him as he passed by the area.

"I am deeply concerned," he added. "There were numerous complaints about illegal activity going on—they were all ignored and that it was out of our jurisdiction. How so? We have the Department of Labor and we have an administration. We have to wait, as usual, for the federal authority to intervene. I asked for an oversight hearing

ing to investigate the accidental death of a worker and what happened? I got rejected by [House Speaker Ralph Demapan (R-Saipan)]."

"This is deplorable, shameful," he added.

MCC legal counsel speaks up

MCC legal counsel Mark Scoggins believes that workers are concerned about the timing to which they would receive their payments. According to Scoggins, MCC has been in touch with the U.S. Department of Labor.

"My office has been in close contact with the USDOL in California and Hawaii. One of those two offices—I am not sure which—sent one of those attorneys here. We talked to him on the phone and we haven't actually met him yet, but we will," he said.

Scoggins believes the workers are primarily concerned about the timing of their wages. According to Scoggins, his office has reached an agreement in principle with USDOL that "the workers are going to be paid and that they are going to be given a ride home."

"Right now, it is our belief that they are going to wait a while before they get paid, but we are working... so we can get them paid on a more expedited basis," he said.

Scoggins mentioned that an attempt to work out the wage issues of the workers with Bank of Guam was for naught due to the fact that it was Good Friday.

"We would be talking to them over the next couple of days to make this happen," he said. "It's partly going to be a matter of what the banks' ca-

pabilities are, but we are working to get that addressed in the next few days."

"At this moment, we are waiting for a representative from the U.S. Dept. of Labor because I believe that the workers are skeptical about what our people have to say," said Scoggins without clarifying what "our people" was pertaining to.

When asked about the issue of MCC withholding workers' passports, Scoggins replied, "I am not going to address questions on that type of thing. Right now, we are working on getting them paid and getting them home."

IPI: We are not complicit

In a statement released the same day, Imperial Pacific International stated that, "it does not condone the hiring and/or employment of individuals by illegal means." IPI also clarified that MCC is a separate entity from IPI and that MCC is merely the construction firm hired by IPI to construct the Imperial Pacific Resort.

"IPI is emphatic in its request to all of its contractors and subcontractors to follow all local and federal labor and immigration laws and regulations in the conduct of its business, including and in particular, the hiring of construction workers," wrote IPI in a statement regarding the protest.

"Imperial Pacific International also implores all of its contractors and subcontractors to faithfully follow and fulfill its contractual commitments and obligations to its workers and Imperial Pacific International, and resolve all labor issues appropriately."

EARTHQUAKE

From Page 3

ed about 3 seconds, but not strong.

The CK resident noticed the water in their 5-gallon bottle swaying after the little shaking.

A Rota police officer said he did not feel the earthquake and

Federal judge OKs release of alleged leader of group of workers at casino project

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
ferdie.delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The federal court has allowed the release to a third party custodian an alleged leader of a group of Chinese workers, mostly illegal workers at the Imperial Pacific International's ongoing casino and resort project in Garapan.

At a detention hearing on Thursday late afternoon, U.S. District Court for the NMI Magistrate Judge Heather L. Kennedy denied the U.S. government's motion for detention of Wencai Guo pending trial.

Kennedy ordered that Guo be released to the custody of Changxue Tang, the third party custodian, and that he post a secured bond of \$10,000.

Kennedy ordered the U.S. Marshal to keep Guo in custody until notified by the clerk or judge that he has posted bond and/or complied with all other conditions for release.

After hearing the parties' arguments, the magistrate judge stated that she was persuaded that location monitoring and home detention in this case would reasonably assure the appearance of Guo and that she would impose some conditions.

Preliminary hearing will be on April 20 at 3pm.

At the hearing, U.S. Probation Officer Gregory Arriola addressed two concerns regarding Tang as third party custodian. Arriola said Tang does not speak English and the other concern is the work schedule.

Arriola said if Guo is at work, the monitoring device is only able to monitor his movements within his residence.

Attorney Robert T. Torres, the privately hired counsel for Guo, said his client would be ready to post a \$5,000 cash bail.

Assistant U.S. attorney Eric O'Malley, counsel for the U.S. government, opposed the release of Guo, asserting that the defendant is a flight risk.

Guo and Xiufang Qi, the other alleged leader of the second group of Chinese workers at the casino/resort project, are from Beilida Overseas (CNMI) Ltd. Qi's detention hearing was held on Friday afternoon.

Qi and Guo were stopped from leaving the CNMI at the Francisco C. Ada-Saipan International Airport last April 5. The two were allegedly bound for China.

The two were arrested on charges of unlawful employment of aliens and bringing in and harboring certain aliens. Separate complaints containing the same charges were also filed against four others:

MCC International project manager Yuqing Zhao, Beilida Overseas president and

director Hui Lu, Beilida's Hongwei Ma, and MCC electrician Pei Ruan.

MCC International is the construction contractor for Imperial Pacific Interna-

tional. Beilida Overseas is a subcontractor of MCC. The Garapan offices of the two

companies were searched by the Federal Bureau of Investigation recently.



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Governor Ralph D. Torres and Lt. Governor Victor B. Hocog, through the Department of Public Works (DPW) are soliciting sealed bids for Parking Lot Striping for the Commonwealth Development Authority Building, San Jose, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands (CNMI).

The project package will be available on or after **April 03, 2017** at Technical Services Division, Department of Public Works, located on Second Floor, Oleai Joeten Commercial Center, San Jose, Saipan. A non-refundable payment of **One Hundred Dollars (\$100.00)** is required for each set. Payment must be made to the CNMI Treasurer and a receipt of payment must be presented when obtaining the Scope of Work at the DPW Technical Services Division.

All interested bidders are also required to include Insurer Clearance Certification (ICC) in their bid packages in order to bid on this project. The ICC can be obtained at the Department of Commerce/Office of the Insurance Commissioner (OIC) on Capitol Hill.

Bidding procedures shall be in full compliance with the CNMI Procurement Regulations currently in effect."

THE PROVISIONS OF THE CNMI PROCUREMENT REGULATIONS, NMIC SECTION 70-30.3-725 AND 70-30.3-730 PROHIBITING GRATUITIES, KICKBACKS AND CONTINGENT FEES SHALL APPLY.

There will be a **Mandatory Pre-bid Conference** for this project on **April 24, 2017, 9:00 a.m. local time** at Project Site, Saipan. The Prospective bidders are encouraged to familiarize themselves with the site. All questions regarding this project must be submitted in writing no later than 4:30 p.m., local time on **May 01, 2017** to Mr. George C. Sablan, Acting Director of Technical Services Division, 2nd Floor, Oleai Joeten Commercial Center, Saipan or fax to (670) 234-3547. Response to questions shall be shared with prospective bidders.

Prospective bidders should examine and review the invitation for bids with care. If it should appear to a prospective bidder that the performance of the work under the contract or any of the matters relative thereto is not sufficiently described or explained in the invitation for bids, or that any discrepancy exists between different parts of the invitation for bids, or that full intent of the invitation for bids is not clear, then the prospective bidder shall submit a written request for clarification no later than ten (10) working days before the scheduled bid opening at 4:30 pm to Mr. George C. Sablan, Acting Director of Technical Services Division, 2nd Floor, Oleai Joeten Commercial Center, Saipan or fax to (670) 234-3547.

The prospective bidder shall examine carefully the site of the proposed work and the invitation for bids before submitting a bid. The Contracting Officer (CO) may, upon recommendation of the Contracting Officer's Technical Representative (COTR), issue an addendum notifying all prospective bidders known to have received an invitation for bids, or if issued after the deadline for submission of the notice of intent to bid, to those persons who submitted such notice, of any changes to the invitation for bids. The Department of Public Works will make every reasonable attempt to notify all persons who obtained the invitation for bids from the Technical Services Division by telephone to pick up the addendum or if the CO chooses, the addendum may be mailed or delivered personally or by facsimile machine. If the bid proposal requires the acknowledgment of addenda, the prospective bidder shall indicate the date of each addendum in the space provided. It shall be the prospective bidder's responsibility to confirm the existence of any addendum by telephoning the COTR at (670) 234-9828/9838 no later than ten (10) calendar days before the scheduled bid opening.

Sealed bids must be marked "DPW-17-IFB-013". For bidders within the CNMI, an original and two copies of sealed bids must be submitted to the Office of the Director of Procurement and Supply, located at the former Emergency Management Office, Ascension Drive, Building No. 1301, Capitol Hill, Saipan, no later than **10:00 a.m. local time May 15, 2017**. Bidders located outside of the CNMI may obtain an additional Seven (7) working days for receipt of their bids by submitting a Notice of Intent to Bid. Notices of Intent to Bid must be received by the Director of Procurement and Supply no later than 10:00 a.m., local time, May 15, 2017, and must be transmitted via facsimile to (670) 664-1515, or via e-mail to procurement@ptcom.com. For bidders located outside the CNMI, an original and two copies of sealed bids must be postmarked by the U.S. Postal Service or the official government postal service of a foreign country no later than May 15, 2017 and the BID documents must be received at the Office of the Director of Procurement and Supply no later than **May 25, 2017**. Note that failure to submit the required number of copies may be cause for rejection of a bid.

Bids will be publicly opened and read at the Office of the Director of Procurement and Supply, located at the former Emergency Management Office, Ascension Drive, Building No. 1301, Capitol Hill, Saipan, at **10:30 a.m. local time, May 26, 2017**. However, if no notices of intent to bid were received from bidders outside the CNMI, bids will be opened at **10:30 a.m. local time on May 15, 2017**.

For bids greater than Twenty-Five Thousand Dollars (\$25,000.00) a bid security of fifteen (15%) of the bid amount must accompany the bid. Bid security shall be on a bid bond, in cash, by certified check, cashiers check or other form acceptable to the government. A surety company shall hold the certificate of authority from the U.S. Secretary of the Treasury as an acceptable surety or other surety acceptable to the Attorney General. Surety requiring approval of the Attorney General must be pre-approved prior to bid submission. Checks must be made payable to the CNMI Treasurer, with the name of the bidder and a notation on the face of the check: "Credit Account No. 44660". If a bid bond is submitted it must be accompanied by an Insurer Clearance Certification (ICC).

The bidder submitting the lowest responsive bid will be subject to a responsibility determination in conformance with the CNMI Procurement Regulations §70-30.3-245. The responsible bidder submitting the lowest responsive bid will be awarded a contract with the CNMI Government and will be required to deliver Performance and Payment bonds, each equal to 100% of the contract price for contracts greater than \$25,000.00. Prior to the execution of the contract, the selected contractor shall submit:

- A current license from the bonding company showing that it has authority to issue bond in the CNMI; and
- A certification from the bonding company that the unencumbered value of its assets (exclusive of all outstanding commitments on other bond obligations) exceed the penal amount of each bond.

A contractor submitting an unacceptable payment or performance bond may be permitted a reasonable time, as determined by the P&S Director, to substitute an acceptable bond prior to executing a contract.

Acceptable assets are only:

- Cash
- US Gov't Securities
- Stocks and Bonds traded on US Security Exchange
- Real Property owned in fee simple in US; and
- Irrevocable Letters of Credit

Performance time for completion of this project is **Forty Five (45) calendar days** upon issuance of Notice to Proceed. Liquidated damages for delays beyond the established completion date will be assessed at the rate of **One Hundred (US\$100.00)** for each and every day the work is delayed beyond the established completion date.

All bid documents received shall become the sole property of the CNMI Government. The Government reserves the right to reject any or all bids and to waive any imperfection in a bid proposal that does not affect the elements of price, quantity, and delivery of the bid, in the best interest of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

JAMES A. ADA
Secretary of Public Works

MANUEL A. SABLÁN
Executive Director, CDA

HERMAN S. SABLÁN
Director of Procurement & Supply



**Commonwealth Utilities Corporation
Office of the Executive Director**

3rd Floor, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building
P.O. Box 501220 CK Saipan, MP 96950-1220
Telephone: (670) 664-4282 • Facsimile: (670) 235-5131



**INVITATION FOR BIDS
CUC-IFB-17-007**

CUC FACILITY FENCE REPAIRS

The Office of the Executive Director, Commonwealth Utilities Corporation (CUC) is soliciting competitive sealed bids from qualified firms for the repair of security fences for multiple Saipan water facilities in need of fence repairs due to damage caused by typhoon Soudelor.

This project is funded by the United States Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA).

CUC requires the Project to be completed in **120 calendar days** from date of award of contract.

Prospective Bidders must pre-register with the CUC Procurement & Supply Division. The Bid Package may be obtained from the CUC Procurement and Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, Saipan, between 7:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. and 12:30 p.m. to 4:00 p.m., Monday through Friday, except on government observed holidays, upon completion of registration and presentation of a receipt evidencing a non-refundable payment to the CUC Treasury Section, by cash, check or credit card in the amount of \$100.00 (non-refundable) for one IFB package set.

A Pre-Bid Conference followed by a Site Visit is scheduled on **April 13, 2017 at 10:00 AM (ChST)** at the CUC Main Conference Room, 3rd Floor, Room No.17, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building.

One (1) original and Five (5) hard copies must be submitted in a sealed envelope marked "**CUC-IFB-17-007, CUC Facility Fence Repairs**", to the CUC Procurement & Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, P.O. Box 501220, Saipan, MP 96950, no later than **10:00 AM (ChST) on April 28, 2017**, at which time they will be publicly opened and read aloud. Late submissions and conditional bids will not be considered. Bid shall be submitted on the provided Bid Forms. Bidders are required to complete all Bid Forms. Bidders may supplement the form as appropriate. Bids will be required to be submitted under a condition of irrevocability for a period of 60 days after submission.

All bidders are advised that CUC assumes no responsibility in any act of omission on the part of the bidders due to lack of information or understanding of the bid requirements in the course of Contractor's preparation of a bid under the contract.

A **Bid Guarantee** of fifteen (15%) percent of the total bid price must accompany the bids. The security deposit may be in cash, certified check, cashier's check, or bid bond executed by a surety company holding a certificate of authority from the United States Secretary of Treasury as an acceptable surety. A **Payment Bond** of one hundred (100%) percent and a **Performance Bond** of one hundred (100%) percent of the total bid price will be required upon the execution of the contract by the successful bidders. The **Payment and Performance bond** must be executed by a surety company holding a certificate of authority from the United States Secretary of Treasury as an acceptable surety. Surety Company must be authorized to do business in the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

All insurers' questions, concerns and qualification shall be handled by the Department of Commerce Office of the Insurance Commissioner (OIC). The OIC is tasked with regulating and monitoring compliance to the CNMI's Insurance Code (Title 4, Division 7). **Bidders are required to submit a clearance from the OIC certifying their insurer of choice is in compliance with the CNMI's Insurance Code.**

Bidders are required to comply with all CNMI and applicable Federal Laws. This bid and the ensuing contract shall be executed pursuant to the CUC Procurement Regulations.

All questions or request for clarification regarding this project must be submitted in writing no later than **4:00 PM (ChST) on April 17, 2017** to Manny B. Sablan, CUC Purchasing Administrator, via email – manny.sablan@cucgov.org with a copy to Yvonne Cabrera, CUC Water/Wastewater Engineer – via email yvonne.cabrera@cucgov.org.

CUC reserves the right to reject any or all bids and waive any imperfection in the bid proposal in the best interest of the government. All bids shall become the property of CUC.

GARY CAMACHO
Acting Executive Director

MANNY B. SABLÁN
Purchasing Administrator

LOCAL

Flavorful week at ARC's Costa Terrace



Eduardo B. Olarte

JON PEREZ

Executive chef Eduardo B. Olarte brings in nearly three decades of experience to Aqua Resort Club's Costa Terrace Restaurant.

By JON PEREZ

jon_perez@saipantribune.com

REPORTER

Olarte said with Filipino food already been introduced locally, after a large number of foreign workers in the CNMI hail from the Philippines, they wanted local and visiting tourists to try the other dishes of Southeast Asian countries.

Last Tuesday's dishes include Caldereta (Philippines, beef stew in tomato sauce), Gado-Gado (Indonesia, salad composed of vegetables, hard-boiled eggs, tofu, and rice wrapped in banana leaf with peanut sauce dressing), Sate (Malaysia, beef or chicken meat) Hainanese chicken rice (Singapore), Phad Thai (stir-fried rice noodles), and Thit Kho (Vietnam, caramelized pork).

Olarte also worked with their pastry chef in introducing desserts like the Filipino Ensaymada (bread with butter, and topped with cheese and sugar) and Indonesia's Dadar Gulung (Pandan-flavored crepes filled with caramelized coconut).

He said that as much as possible they make do on the limited ingredients that can be found and are available on the island. "Each country has its own specialty dish. The food that we're going to offer for the day is based on the ingredients that can be bought on the island.

"The limited resources sometimes make it hard to get other ingredients since you need to order it by volume. We use alternative ingredients but it loses the authentic flavor.

The Southeast Asian theme is every Tuesday where one can feast on Filipino, Indonesian, Malaysian, Singaporean, Thai, and Vietnamese dishes.

dients for each dish," added Olarte, who reminds his staff that he started as a steward to inspire them.

He said that he also makes it a point to get out of the kitchen so he could chat with ARC's customers, especially the regulars. "I want to get their feedback for our theme for the day. I get new ideas by just talking to them."

"Sometimes they suggest new dishes or tell me that they love what we offered for the day. They also tell me if they want to see more variation of the food. We are open to their suggestions. We want to rotate or offer them new dishes, this way they won't get bored with what we're offering."

Costa's daily theme lunch buffet has authentic Chinese cuisine with roast duck and dimsum for Mondays, Korean with bibimbap every Wednesdays, Chamolian with barbecue for Thursdays, Japanese with shabu-shabu every Fridays, and international Mongolian noodle for Saturdays.

Sunday brunch has a roasted pig that Olarte said is delivered fresh and not frozen, and they have also started with their chocolate fondue.

For more information or reservation, call 322-1234 ext. 731 or 732.



By KIMBERLY A. BAUTISTA
kbautista1222@gmail.com
REPORTER

Easter for the *man'amko* on the island of Saipan is anything but boring. Last Wednesday, the Office on Aging celebrated Easter with an egg hunt, dance competitions, and games such as volleyball at the Carolinian Utt from 9am to 2pm.

Linda Torres, Office on Aging community development specialist, told *Saipan Tribune* that one of the activities of the *Man'amko* Easter Celebration was an Easter egg hunt.

The Easter egg hunt consisted of almost 15 dozen cartons of eggs. The main prize for the Easter egg hunt was the gold-

Man'amko go on Easter egg hunt



PUBLIC NOTICE

APPLICATION FOR CNMI WATER QUALITY CERTIFICATION

The Antidegradation Policy of the Water Quality Standards of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands states that the protection and maintenance of the quality of the waters of the Commonwealth are an historic and legal right of the people of the Northern Mariana Islands, and that this shall be the public policy of the Commonwealth. Any proposed activity that will impact the waters of the Commonwealth must receive a Water Quality Certification from the Bureau of Environmental and Coastal Quality (BECQ). In issuing a Water Quality Certification, BECQ must assure that the proposed activity complies with all applicable provisions of the CNMI Water Quality Standards and federal Clean Water Act, will not interfere with the attainment or maintenance of the existing or designated uses of the Commonwealth waters, and that all appropriate and practicable steps have been taken to minimize potential adverse impacts to aquatic life and human health.

Upon receiving an application, BECQ issues a public notification which describes the proposed activity and potential impacts on water quality, aquatic life and human health. A thirty (30) day public comment period will commence from the date of the first publication of the notice.

The Administrator of BECQ may conduct a public hearing to solicit comments on the application if a hearing is requested by the public. BECQ will make a determination for issuing a Water Quality Certification based upon a complete technical review of the application and the public comments received.

BECQ is soliciting comments on the following renewal application for a CNMI Water Quality Certification.

1. **APPLICANT:** Seatouch LLC/Let's Go Tour Company
PO Box 50128 Saipan, MP 96950
2. **APPLICABLE STATUTORY AUTHORITY:** CNMI Commonwealth Environmental Protection Act (Public Law No. 3-23); CNMI Water Quality Standards, Chapter 65-130
3. **LOCATION OF PROPOSED ACTIVITY:** Beach side adjacent to Fiesta Hotel, Garapan
4. **DESCRIPTION OF PROPOSED ACTIVITY:** A floating dock and enclosure that houses stingrays is currently in place with a walkway from shore. The dock system is anchored by 20 units, each weighing 1 ton. The enclosure is secured by wire mesh fitted with stainless steel wire cables and concrete filled PVC pipes that are spooled onto the mesh.
5. **IMPACT OF THE PROPOSED ACTION:** The enclosure of stingrays in a confined area has the potential to produce excess waste that could enrich the surrounding waters and alter the surrounding coral and seagrass assemblages.
6. **PROPOSED MITIGATION MEASURES:** A water quality sampling plan was developed to monitor before-after-control-impact (BACI) to generate baseline water quality data and then assess water quality during operations. These data will provide a general characterization of the nearshore lagoon water quality.

Written comments and inquiries should be submitted to DEQ within thirty (30) days of the first date of publication of this notice. Please mail comments to Director, Division of Environmental Quality, P.O. Box 501304, Saipan, MP 96950

PUBLIC NOTICE

April 6, 2017

SAIPAN AIRPORT PARKING

This is to inform the general public that the Commonwealth Ports Authority (CPA) will be reinstating the charges for the parking booth located in the main parking lot at the Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport. The parking booth will resume operations on May 1, 2017.

The system dispenses a plastic card upon entry and the card is returned when exiting. The system reads the elapsed time between entry and exit and indicates the appropriate charge. A fee of two dollars (\$2.00) will be charged for the first hour or fraction thereof and an additional two (\$2.00) dollars for each additional hour or fraction of an hour.

The total charge for each 24-hour period is fifteen (\$15.00) dollars. For each additional hour or fraction of an hour, an additional two (\$2.00) dollars will be charged.

A customer who loses a parking card will be charged fifteen (\$15.00) dollars for the lost card and will also be charged the appropriate parking fee for the time parked. The customer with the lost parking card may be required to park on the side to allow other customers to exit first and then give time for the parking booth attendant to check the system to resolve the matter.

A customer with a valid Handicap Placard will not be charged any parking fee as long as the person who was issued the placard is present in the vehicle. All customers with a valid Handicap Placard should contact the Accounting Office at (670) 237-6508.

All parking fees are non-refundable.

If you have any questions, please feel free to call CPA's main office at (670) 237-6500.

CHRISTOPHER S. TENORIO
Executive Director

and Jose Rios.

Winners of the dance competition received prizes such as lunch bags, coffee mugs, and stuffed animals.

The Easter celebration even got the *man'amko* to play volleyball. According to Torres, the game was played differently for the senior citizens. They played it with a big beach ball while sitting on chairs in a circle.

There were many sponsors of the *Man'amko* Easter celebration.

Sponsors for eggs and materials were the Marianas High School class of 1987, Viola Alepuyo, Lillian Pangelinan, May and Tony Guerrero, Rep. Ed Propst (Ind-Saipan), and Robert Torres.

Some gave in-kind donations. They were Diego Pua, Jovie Raymundo, Larinay Emy, Zenaida Borja, Evelyn Quimson, Lito and Jacoba Asuncion, Maria Salinas, Tas and Luz Buccat, Floria James, and many more.

The Office of Aging president Rita Reyes also contributed to the donations. She donated all the prizes for the activities.

KIMBERLY A. BAUTISTA
Man'amko Queen Soledad Cabrera, left, *Man'amko* King Carmelito Asuncion, and Christiana Michael pose for a picture at the *Man'amko* Easter celebration last Wednesday.

DIVISION OF COASTAL RESOURCES MANAGEMENT



Caller Box 10007, Gualo Rai Center, Saipan MP 96950
TEL. NO. 664-8300 FAX NO. 664-8315



NOTICE OF APPLICATION

As of April 04, 2017

THE FOLLOWING IS A PUBLIC ANNOUNCEMENT OF COASTAL PERMIT APPLICATIONS RECEIVED BY THE DCRM OFFICE:

APPLICANT	DATE APPLICATION RECEIVED	APPLICATION PROJECT DESCRIPTION	LOCATION	TYPE	STATUS
1. Chien Tan dba Zen Homes, LLC	3/14/2017 SMS-2017-X-039	Apartment Complex	Gualo Rai, Saipan	Major Siting	Under Review*
2. David E. Johansen	3/30/2017 SPI-2017-X-043	Drydock	Lower Base, Saipan	Ports & Industrial	Approved - 4/5/2017
3. Micronesia Resort Inc. dba Pacific Islands Club	3/17/2017 SS-2017-X-042	Soil Investigation	San Antonio	Shoreline	Approved - 4/3/2017
4. IT & E	4/3/2017 STRSWPICH-2017-X-044	Installation & repairs of telephone/fiber optic cables	Saipan, Tinian & Rota	Multiple APCs	Approved - 4/7/2017
5. Auto Marine Inc.	3/30/2017 SPI-2017-X-046	Drydock	South Sea Plane Ramp, Lower Base, Saipan	Ports & Industrial	Under Review*
6. Saipan Crewboats, Inc.	4/10/2017 SPI-2017-X-047	Drydock	Able Dock, Lower Base, Saipan	Ports & Industrial	Under Review*
7. Isaac S. Eang	4/10/2017 SWm-2017-X-048	Construction of 2-bedroom house	Sadog Tasi, Saipan	Wetland	Under Review*
8. Saipan Sun Company SCHSWPI-2017-X-044	3/28/2017	Drydock	Lower Base, Saipan	Ports & Industrial	Approved - 4/5/2017
9. Aquaville Inc.	4/3/2017 SLRm-2015-X-026	Marine Sports Scuba Diving Tour Operation	Managaha	Lagoon & Reef	Renewal-Under Review
10. Zen Corporation	3/23/2017 SLRm-2005-X-034	Marine Sports Marine Sports Activities	Achugao, Saipan	Lagoon & Reef	Renewal-Under Review
11. Naka's Diving Services	3/30/2017 TSLRm-2005-X-120	Marine Sports Scuba Diving Tour Operation	All Dive Sites, Saipan	Lagoon & Reef	Renewal-Under Review
12. Asia Marine Sports	4/5/2017 SLRm-2010-X-013	Marine Sports Managaha Transfer	Garapan, Saipan	Lagoon & Reef	Renewal-Under Review
13. Tropical Leisure Sports	4/10/2017 SLRm-97-X-82	Marine Sports Banana Boat Operation	Garapan, Saipan	Lagoon & Reef	Renewal-Under Review

\$15-10-210 of the CRM Rules and Regulation requires all permit applications to be published in a newspaper for general circulation within 15 days of receipt of application. The list reflects recently received permit applications and those with a recent change in status. New applications are marked with an asterisk (*).

The Public is invited to submit written comments regarding any of the above projects for which a permit decision has not been issued. All permit comments should identify the project by application number. Your comments should be mailed or hand-delivered to the DCRM Office. All persons who desire a public hearing regarding any project may do so by submitting a written request for a public hearing to the DCRM Office within fourteen (14) days for minor permits (APCs) and proposed amended major sitings. Public Hearings are required for all new major siting projects. All public hearing notices are published in a local newspaper of general circulation. Residents of Rota and Tinian may submit comments and hearing requests to their local DCRM Coordinator. Persons wishing to retain the right to appeal a DCRM Permit decision must file a notice of appeal with the DCRM office within thirty (30) days of the issuance of the DCRM permit decision as provided in Part 200 § 15-10-235 of the DCRM Regulations.

'Yes, the China Travel Channel Loves Saipan!'



Alex Lee (back row, orange shirt) and the China Travel Channel film production crew with author/guide Walt Goodridge overlooking Forbidden Island in Kagman, Saipan, Northern Mariana Islands.

By WALT F.J. GOODRIDGE
SPECIAL TO THE SAIPAN TRIBUNE

As more and more Chinese tourists and travel agents discover Saipan, Tinian, and Rota, word of our beautiful scenery, crystal clear waters, lovely weather, friendly people and safe environment is spreading far and wide.

A few months ago, the Costa Cruise ship, *Atlantica*, departed Tianjin, China and made two separate visits to Saipan as part of a 46-day World Cruise itinerary to the South Pacific. Among the approximately 2,100 passengers who descended on Saipan was host Alex Lee of The China Travel Channel who had contacted me to arrange a comprehensive, personalized guided tour for him and his team at a good price. Their mission: to learn the truth about Saipan, and document it all to encourage more tourism to these islands.

Alex is an entrepreneur born in mainland China, now living in Thailand. His film crew hails from Hong Kong and China. We spent a total of two days roaming the entire island, enjoying the sights, meeting local residents, getting to

know each other by comparing and contrasting business practices, lifestyles and behavioral norms in China, the U.S. mainland, Saipan, Thailand, and Jamaica and filming it all as Alex narrated the adventure for the camera.

In addition to the standard fare "must see" spots—The Grotto, Bird Island, Tapachao, Last Command Post, Suicide Cliff, et.al.—the four documentarians were treated to many off-the-beaten-path spots tourists don't often get to experience.

The travel channel crew's verdict? Yes, it's all true! From muscle cars to Mangaha, from the green flash, to the Grotto, Saipan offers quite a lot for the Chinese tourist! It's well worth the trip and the experience for those who want a little taste of America with a dash of tropical flavor and a pinch of accurate history all cooked up in a pot of indigenous culture!

The proof and result of that verdict is a series of inviting, expertly-produced videos that show off the best of Saipan for the benefit of the Chinese tourist, whether family, group or free, independent, solo traveler. The first in the series, produced and directed by

Other videos highlight additional destinations on their itinerary, including Vanuatu, Tonga, French Polynesia, American Samoa, New Caledonia and Papua New Guinea.

Walt Goodridge is author of several books about Saipan including *Chicken Feathers & Garlic Skin: Diary of a Chinese Garment Factory Girl*

on Saipan, *The Saipan Living Relocation Guide*, and *Saipan Now: A Photo Adventure*. He also conducts writer workshops to help other Saipan writers tell their own stories.



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www.triplejsaipan.com/employment-application/

Triple J is an Equal Opportunity Employer.

Good Samaritan Hospital and Marianas Medical Center is pleased to announce that Juan Carlos Quiros, MD, FACC will be on island May 1-3, 2017.

For more information, referrals and/or appointments, please contact your physician or Marianas Medical Center at (670) 234-3926/27/28



Juan Carlos Quiros, MD, FACC
Cardiology
Good Samaritan Hospital Guam Office

Meet Dr. Juan Carlos Quiros cardiologist and Medical Director for Good Samaritan Hospital Guam office bringing cardiovascular care excellence to the CNMI.

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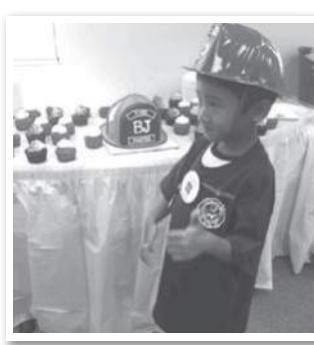
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Hope Awaits
Saipan Tribune

Opinion

Saipan Tribune

THE CNMI'S FIRST DAILY NEWSPAPER

Volume XXVII, Issue No. 75

Published daily at 2/F JP Center,
Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, CNMI
Mailing Address: PMB 34, Box 10001, Saipan, MP, 96950

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EDITORIAL

Congress must have say in war-making decisions like Syria strike

President Trump's decision to order 59 Tomahawk cruise missiles into Syria last week does nothing to bring stability to that country, protect American national security or strengthen our position in the world.

It does, however, continue an unfortunate trend of American presidents committing acts of war with hardly even the pretense of legal protocol or long-term geopolitical strategy.

Ostensibly in retaliation for the Syrian government's use of chemical weapons which killed upwards of 100 people, American cruise missiles were fired on the airbase believed to house aircraft that carried out the chemical weapons attack. Undoubtedly the use of chemical weapons is reprehensible and the pictures which surfaced in the aftermath were simply heart wrenching.

President Trump argued that the strikes were in the "vital, national security interest of the United States to prevent and deter the spread and use of deadly chemical weapons." That means the American response appears to have been more symbolic than anything practical.

But whatever the impact of the strikes, President Trump ought to recall the words of candidate Trump: "The president must get Congressional approval before attacking Syria — big mistake if he does not!" he tweeted in August 2013. "President Obama, do not attack Syria," he warned on Sept. 7, 2013. "There is no upside and tremendous downside."

If there is anything we should have learned from our prolonged involvements in the Middle East and North Africa in recent decades, it's that toppling governments and bombing sovereign nations without an overarching strategy doesn't serve our national interests. Fighting and instability continue to plague Afghanistan, Iraq, Libya, Somalia, Syria and Yemen, despite — and in part because of — our aimless interventions.

"While such operations and interventions are well-intended," Sen. Mike Lee, R-Utah, said following the Syria strike. "They should only be undertaken after serious consideration and approval by the elected representatives of the American people, ensuring that public accountability on war-making decisions exists."

Last week's strikes are a reminder that many of our interventions today have gone on without explicit Congressional authorization or even sensible limitations. Sens. Lee and Rand Paul, R-Ky., have introduced legislation requiring the president to seek congressional approval before using military force in response to humanitarian catastrophes. That would be a good start.

As convenient as it might be for the Congress to leave war-making to the whims of whoever is president at the

See CONGRESS on Next Page



Easter's memories tug at heartstrings

When you grow up in a large family, the holidays are always a crapshoot. You could have a childhood filled with Martha Stewart-perfect memories, or you could start therapy at a very early age, just as soon as you've saved enough from your paper route for the first session. In my case, the history falls somewhere between those extremes, but hovers uncomfortably close to the Freudian option.

Not all holidays were potential powder kegs. Valentine's Day went off without a hitch, as did St. Patrick's. The Fourth of July was uneventful, except for the year my father decided to boil crabs. He had neglected to notify the crabs that our holiday was their judgment day, and they all jumped out of the bag and started running around the kitchen in an ironically fitting bid for independence.

Halloween was my mother's opportunity to channel her latent Cecil B. DeMille tendencies and create mammoth productions starring her five children. Each year, she would pick a theme that could accommodate her kids in the most creative way possible. One year I was Mary Mary Quite Contrary and my three brothers were the flowers in my garden. Brothers Teddy and Jonathan begrudgingly wore their rose and daisy costumes, but baby brother Michael rebelled and became the first violet to come with his own irrigation system (if you get my drift). In fact, he watered all over the other blossoms, causing my mother to transplant him to the nursery. During the Bicentennial in 1976, she did a whole patriotic-themed grouping, with yours truly as Betsy Ross, my three brothers as the fife and drum corps and my baby sister as the Liberty Bell. Sadly, a miscalculation in the measurements meant Tara was encased in a bell so wide, she couldn't make it through any of the neighbors' doorways, and ended up with a severely reduced amount of candy.

Thanksgiving meant a coma brought on by food and football. Christmas brings with it no bad memories, and if I view my childhood through the prism of December, it is the purest and most immutable perfection.

Easter, on the other hand, had its challenges. First, the payoff for being good was nowhere near what you got on Christmas morning. Chocolate is nice, white chocolate is nicer and a whole basket filled with white chocolate is nicer still, but the truth is that you can eat only so much sugar before you get really sick, just in time to have to get dressed in that scratchy Sears outfit your grandmother purchased for you because it turns out she really hates you. I suppose I should not use the universal "you"

By CHRISTINE M. FLOWERS
Philadelphia Daily News

Christine M. Flowers is a lawyer and columnist for the Philadelphia Daily News. Readers may send her email at cflowers1961@gmail.com.



here. This is personal. I was rather plump from 1972 up until never mind, and Grandma Elsie decided that the best way to hide my flaws was to buy me bright polyester pastel pantsuits. Before that, Mama Lucy would sew me dresses that made me look like a pretty little china doll, but scratched the bejeezus out of my armpits and around my neck. Also, the skirts on the dresses were so full, I was in danger of going airborne in a strong wind, of which there were many. Easter wreaked havoc with my dignity.

I look back on photos of our family, all dressed smartly and lined up for the camera with smiles rimmed with the stray streaks of chocolate, and I can't escape the sensation that we were the Catholic Osmonds, all clean-cut, white teeth, dark hair and deceptively placid expressions. Just as I'm sure Donny and Marie had their rebellious moments, so did we. One year, someone took the struffoli my grandmother made (for the medigans out there, it was a tower of fried dough balls with nonpareils and honey sprinkled over them) and someone started picking it apart as if he were engaged in an assault on Fort Sumter, flinging sticky, doughy spheres at whoever ended up in his line of vision. That someone, whom we will not call Michael, had his Easter basket donated to my father, who ate everything except the marshmallow Peeps (which are never eaten anyway, and just get repackaged each successive year like fruitcakes).

Other Easter memories include watching "Ben Hur" with my father and wondering how standing in a rainstorm could make your leprous skin clear up so quickly, or watching "The Ten Commandments" with my father and trying to figure out how Charlton Heston turned into Burl Ives when he came down from Mount Sinai, or watching "The Robe" with my father and wondering why we couldn't be watching something in which people wore normal clothing.

I'm joking, of course. Easter was a wonderful holiday, a deeply spiritual one and one that brought our family closer together

See EASTER'S on Next Page

EDITORIAL POLICY

Letters to the editor must include the NAME, VILLAGE ADDRESS, and CONTACT NUMBER of the contributor. Letters that do not have these information will immediately be trashed. Contributions consisting of 500 words or less have more chances of getting published. The *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to publish a contribution or not; the right to edit submissions for length, accuracy, and clarity; and the right to publish and distribute contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats. Submissions may be sent via snail mail to the 2nd Floor, JP Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, 96950; fax (670) 235-3740; e-mail to editor@saipantribune.com; or through our website at www.saipantribune.com.

When theater becomes special



The cast of *The Man Who Came To Dinner* that the columnist directed.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Those who are fortunate enough to work in the theater usually have some good tales to tell. I am not talking about amateur plays, but professionals, who often go on tour, or have a long run somewhere. This also applies to Summer Stock productions, where a hardy band of talented people put on a variety of plays and musicals.

What makes these experiences special is that everybody becomes friends, hang out together after a performance, and generally have a wonderful time.

I've had the pleasure to work with a few theater companies over the years. The first one was in Killarney, Ireland. I "mucked in" with the other actors—we were all in our 20s—and we had a fantastic time because everyone got along (for the most part).

Early in the morning we'd gather in front of the stage, and the "tea boy" (Julian Erskine, who later created "Riverdance") would bring us cups of hot tea to start the day.

After the tea, we'd build the set for the evening performance. Everybody pitched in and dragged the "flats" around. (A flat is a piece of scenery, about 10 feet high and three feet wide. They are then lashed together and screwed into the floor, so they'll remain stable.)

If there was enough time after a show, and everyone had some energy, we'd "strike" the set and pile the flats at the back. A young helper (there are always a few) would sweep the stage and tidy up.

I think that the best part was all of us going to a pub after a show. Our "local" was called "The Flesh"—named after the River Flesh, which ran near Killarney. Over pints of Guinness, Harp, or Double Diamond (my favorite) we would tell stories of past productions and these were always great fun. They were fun because all of the young actors had been around in various companies or productions and funny things always happened.

A tale was told about a theater company that would tour the high schools and perform Shakespeare. This company was "in rep" which meant that sometimes they did Hamlet, another time they'd perform Romeo and Juliet. Then, after the performance, the actors and director would come out to the stage, sit on the apron, and answer questions from the young audience.

One day, after a performance of Hamlet, and many questions had been asked and answered, a young girl raised her hand. The director nodded to her. The girl asked, "Do you think that Hamlet and Ophelia ever had intimate relations?" The director thought for a moment and then said, "Well, in the Chicago company they did."

A tale is also told about the great John Barrymore, who continued to play Hamlet, even though he was nearly 60 years old. He had toured with Hamlet for decades, and was held in

high esteem.

After a performance at Yale, a cocky college student asked Mr. Barrymore, "Aren't you a little too old to play the role of Hamlet?" Barrymore stood up and scowled at the audience.

"I have been playing Hamlet for more than 40 years; many times here, at Yale. Now you need to be quiet, because for all you know, I might be your father."

Sometimes actors would play pranks on each other during a performance. They were not appreciated, but often an actor would get bored playing the same role night after night and wanted to have a little fun.

You may not be familiar with the term, "to upstage" another actor. This means that an actor is doing something to draw attention to him or her, and draw focus away from the other actors and the scene.

One aging actress was to sit on an upstage sofa and smoke a cigarette while her fellow actor gave a long monologue, standing downstage. What the woman did was to take a long hat-pin and put it in the cigarette. As she smoked, the ash got longer and longer. However, because of the pin, the ash didn't fall off—and the audience was riveted. The downstage actor sensed something odd, and kept looking back to see what was happening, but he just saw the actress with her cigarette.

When the cigarette was nearly finished and the ash was three inches long, she carefully set it into an ashtray. The audience breathed a collective sigh of relief. The actor wasn't pleased, but it was a very clever trick.

There's no business like show business

The wonderful Groucho Marx once relayed this story during his one-man show at Carnegie Hall in 1972.

"I saw an ad in *The Morning World*. It was from a theatrical outfit and the ad said, simply, "Boy Wanted." So I ran all the way down from 93rd Street to 46th Street, ran up seven flights of stairs and knocked on the door.

"Eventually a woman opened the door. She was quite a sight: she had bleached-blond hair, and wore a beige slip with stains on it. She smoked a cigarette, her lipstick was smeared and she smelled like cheap booze. And, when I saw this woman, I knew that this was the profession that I wanted to enter."

I once directed a production of "The Man Who Came To Dinner." It was put on by the Milford (New Hampshire) High School Junior Class, and it was one of the best productions I've ever been associated with. But, before we got started, it needed an angle, and I found it.

The play, written by George S. Kaufmann and Moss Hart, was first produced in 1939: that was the hook. I had the actors wear

By RUSS MASON

Special to the Saipan Tribune



Russ Mason, M.S., wrote for a medical journal, "Alternative & Complementary Therapies," for eight years. He interviewed dozens of doctors who had much to share about unconventional treatment options. These included Tibetan medicine, Chinese medicine, botanicals, and treating stroke victims with hyperbaric oxygen.

1930s clothes; the boys all got haircuts and the girls had their hair bobbed. So that was the way to go: back in time, to 1939. I found some old music from the period, and—and the ending tableau (they actors all freeze as the curtain closes) was framed by the music of Ben Bernie, a song called "Au Revoir." "Until the next time, when—possibly you will all tune in again. Keep the old maestro always in your schemes. Yowzah yowzah yowzah."

If you'd care to hear the song, search YouTube for "Ben Bernie Au Revoir." It's just swell and sentimental.

The audience had been enthralled—even before the play began: the programs looked old-fashioned, and we had antique cars in the bus loop out front. The local fire department contributed some gigantic searchlights, so it looked like a 1930's Hollywood premier at the high school.

I did quite a few other shows, but this one remains a favorite, because the students "got it" and pitched in to make it 1939 all the way.

Irving Berlin had it right: There's no business like show business.

EASTER'S

From Page 10

than almost any other. And the truth of that became painfully clear, in the most bittersweet manner, in 1982.

My father Ted was dying. He'd been diagnosed with inoperable lung cancer the previous May, and all of the treatments he'd valiantly tried in an attempt to wrest back a few precious years from a cruel destiny were useless. His days were numbered in the double digits. I had spent this year in Paris, as a junior in college. I hadn't wanted to go, but Daddy insisted. I was supposed to come home at the end of the term in late May, but one morning I got a phone call from my mother, telling me to come home for Easter. I knew what that meant, without her saying anything else.

Easter fell on April 11 that year. I came home on the 9th, spent a whole week with my father, sat beside him on the sofa even when he didn't really recognize me with a brain foggy with morphine and a body still wracked with pain. I sat next to him, and remembered the way he would steal chocolate from my basket without thinking I'd seen it. I remembered the way he'd kid me about the polyester pants and my Mario Andretti glasses, remembered the way he'd help us find the hidden eggs in the backyard treasure hunt.

And, with our early-model VCR, I'd watch Ben Hur crush Messala at the Circus Maximus, Moses part the Red Sea, and the Christians march toward the lion's den wearing Technicolor togas. And I held his hand.

That was the last time I saw my father alive. I flew back to Paris, and a month later got the call to come home, for his funeral. But that last Easter was beyond precious, and each successive year has reminded me that resurrections are both universal and personal. The Easter of 1982 gave me back my father, to carry with me forever.

And I know I'll see him again, because that's what Easter is really all about.

CONGRESS

From Page 10

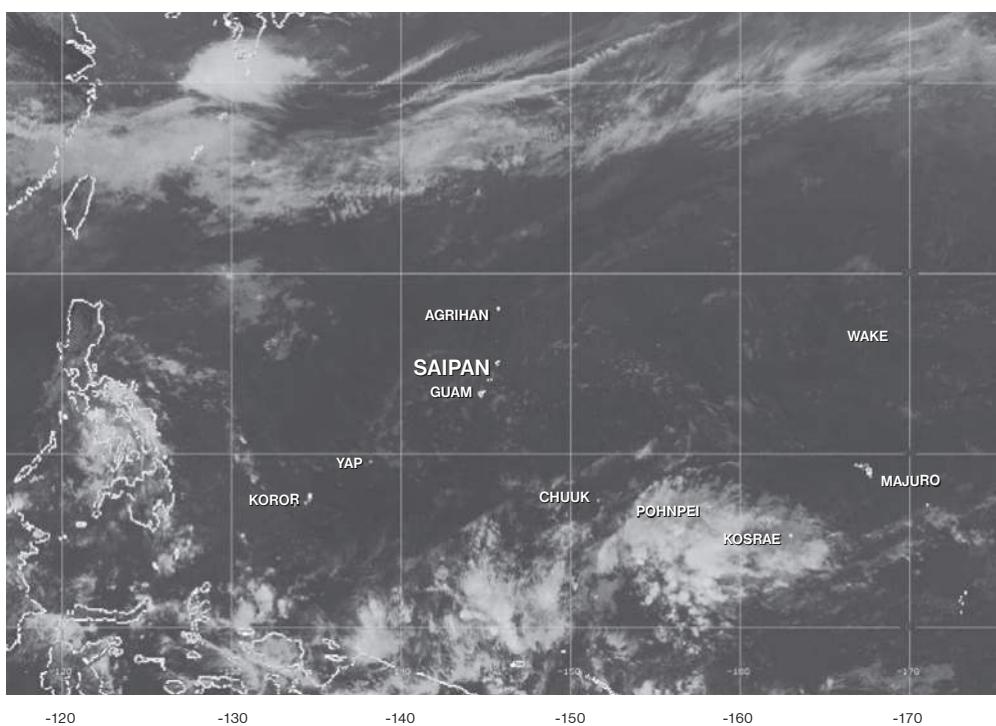
time, such abdication only minimizes accountability while facilitating perpetual war abroad. In order to prevent further, unchecked escalation of American involvements in Syria, any future actions against the Syrian government must be authorized by the Congress.

The Weather

5-DAY FORECAST FOR SAIPAN AND TINIAN

TODAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
Scattered showers and thunderstorms, especially early in the day.	Intervals of clouds and sunshine	Partly cloudy	Partly to mostly cloudy with a chance of thunderstorms.	Intervals of clouds and sunshine
▲ 85° ▼ 78°	▲ 86° ▼ 77°	▲ 86° ▼ 77°	▲ 86° ▼ 78°	▲ 86° ▼ 78°

YESTERDAY'S SATELLITE IMAGE



PICTURE TIME: 4:48 AM, SUNDAY, APRIL 16, 2017

Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

A weak trade-wind disturbance will approach the northern Marianas tonight, with an increase in clouds. However, moisture remains limited and don't expect more than isolated showers. Wind and seas will decrease toward the end of the week. Some moisture may build up by Thursday, but looks to remain south of Guam, as another weak disturbance moves by.

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam homepage: www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/

MICRONESIA		▲	▼	°F
Guam and Rota	Thunderstorms	87	79	°F
Palau	Partly Cloudy	87	78	°F
Yap	Thunderstorms	84	71	°F
Chuuk	Thunderstorms	85	80	°F
Pohnpei	Thunderstorms	85	79	°F
Kosrae	Thunderstorms	85	79	°F
Majuro	Thunderstorms	85	79	°F

TIDES: SAIPAN HARBOR TODAY FEET		
5:42 AM	LOW TIDE	1.1
10:28 AM	HIGH TIDE	1.61
5:52 PM	LOW TIDE	0.12
-	-	-

DAY	SUNRISE	SUNSET
Today	6:01 AM	6:31 PM
Tuesday	6:01 AM	6:31 PM
Wednesday	6:00 AM	6:32 PM
Thursday	5:59 AM	6:32 PM
Friday	5:59 AM	6:32 PM

DAY	MOONRISE	MOONSET	MOONRISE
Today	-	10:16 AM	11:25 PM
Tuesday	-	11:04 AM	-
Wednesday	12:13 AM	11:54 AM	-
Thursday	1:00 AM	12:45 PM	-
Friday	1:46 AM	1:37 PM	-

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SUBSCRIPTION Published Monday to Friday, *Saipan Tribune* offers door-to-door on-island delivery at an annual rate of \$180. For additional subscription information, call (670) 235-8747 or 235-2769, or fax 235-3740.

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NMI CRIME STOPPERS

Anonymous tips can now be submitted through the following:

- Call 234-7272 (PARA) on any telephone
- *11 on any IT&E cellular phone
- Log on to the internet at www.nmicrimestoppers.net

FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF MARCH 25, 2017

DEPARTURES				ARRIVALS			
SAIPAN-GUAM (GUM)				GUAM (GUM)-SAIPAN			
UA6394	4:15am	5:05am	Daily	UA6393	2:45am	3:35am	Daily
UA6392	8:40am	9:30am	Daily	UA6395	7:15am	8:05am	Daily
UA6391	1:30pm	3:10pm	1, 4, 5, 7 via Rota	UA6391	12:10pm	1:00pm	1, 4, 5, 7
UA6390	2:20pm	3:10pm	2, 3, 6	UA6390	12:10pm	1:50pm	2, 3, 6 via Rota
UA6398	6:05pm	6:55pm	Daily	UA6397	4:45pm	5:35pm	Daily
UA6396	9:50pm	10:40pm	Daily	UA6399	8:30pm	9:20pm	Daily
SAIPAN-ROTA (ROP)				GUAM (GUM)-ROTA (ROP)			
UA6391	1:30pm	2:05pm	1, 4, 5, 7	UA6390	12:10pm	12:45pm	2, 3, 6
ROTA (ROP)-GUAM (GUM)				ROTA (ROP)-SAIPAN			
UA6391	2:35pm	3:10pm	1, 4, 5, 7	UA6390	1:15pm	1:50pm	2, 3, 6
SAIPAN-NARITA (NRT)				NARITA (NRT)-SAIPAN			
DL297	4:15pm	7:05pm	Daily	DL298	10:25am	2:55pm	Daily
SAIPAN-SEOUL (ICN)				SEOUL (ICN)-SAIPAN			
TW308	2:35am	6:25am	Daily	LJ651	8:25am	1:45pm	Daily
OZ626	2:10am	6:00am	1	ZE581	10:15am	3:35pm	Daily
OZ626	2:50am	6:40am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7	7C3402	10:10am	3:30pm	Daily
7C3403	4:35am	8:30am	Daily	OZ625	7:40pm	1:00am+1	7
LJ652	3:10pm	7:05pm	Daily	TW307	8:15pm	1:35am+1	Daily
7C3401	4:30pm	8:25pm	Daily	OZ625	8:20pm	1:40am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6
ZE582	4:25pm	8:35pm	Daily	7C3404	10:10pm	3:30am+1	Daily
SAIPAN-BUSAN (PUS)				BUSAN (PUS)-SAIPAN			
7C3451	2:55am	6:10am	1, 7	7C3452	8:30pm	1:20am+1	6, 7
OZ608	3:10am	6:20am	4, 7	OZ607	9:00pm	1:50am+1	3, 6
7C3451	3:15am	6:30am	4, 5	7C3452	9:35pm	2:15am+1	3, 4
SAIPAN-JEJU (CJU)				JEJU (CJU)-SAIPAN			
7C3433	3:55am	7:30am	3, 7	7C3434	10:05pm	2:40am+1	2, 6
SAIPAN-SHANGHAI (PVG)				SHANGHAI (PVG)-SAIPAN			
3U8648	5:20am	8:00am	1, 4, 5, 7	3U8647	10:20pm	4:30am+1	3, 4, 6, 7
SAIPAN-BEIJING (PEK)				BEIJING (PEK)-SAIPAN			
MU764	1:30am	6:50am	3, 5, 7	MU763	4:40pm	12:30am+1	2, 4, 6
SAIPAN-GUANGZHOU (CAN)				GUANGZHOU (CAN)-SAIPAN			
3U8646	4:30am	7:50am	2, 6	3U8645	7:50pm	2:40am+1	1, 5
SAIPAN-MANILA (MNL)				MANILA (MNL)-SAIPAN			
OZ626/701	2:10am	10:50am	1 via ICN	UA190/6397	9:55am	5:35pm	2, 3, 6, 7 via GUM
OZ626/701	2:50am	10:50am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN	OZ702/625	12:30pm	1:00am+1	7 via ICN
UA6394/191	4:15am	9:00am	2, 3, 6, 7 via GUM	OZ702/625	12:30pm	1:40am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN
UA6394/PR111	4:15am	9:30am	Daily via GUM	PR110/UA6395	10:05pm	8:05am+1	Daily via GUM
UA6391/183	1:30pm	9:30pm	5 via Rota-GUM				

Business

Delta OKs offers of up to \$9,950 to flyers who give up seats

By DAVID KOENIG and DAMIAN TROISE
AP BUSINESS WRITERS

Delta is letting employees offer customers nearly \$10,000 in compensation to give up seats on overbooked flights, hoping to avoid an uproar like the one that erupted at United after a passenger was dragged off a jet.

United is taking steps too. It will require employees seeking a seat on a plane to book it at least an hour before departure, a policy that might have prevented last Sunday's confrontation.

Those and other changes show airlines are scrambling to respond to a public-relations nightmare—the video showing airport officers violently yanking and dragging 69-year-old David Dao from his seat on a sold-out United Express flight.

Dao and three others were ordered off the plane after four airline employees showed up at the last minute and demanded seats so they could be in place to operate a flight the next day in Louisville, Kentucky.

On Friday, a United spokeswoman said the airline changed its policy to require traveling employees to book a flight at least 60 minutes before departure. Had the rule been in place last Sunday, United Express Flight 3411 still would have been overbooked by four seats, but United employees could have dealt with the situation in the gate area instead of on the plane.

Delta Air Lines is moving to make it easier to find customers willing to give up their seats. In an internal memo obtained Friday by The Associated Press, Delta said gate agents can offer up to \$2,000, up from a previous maximum of \$800, and supervisors can offer up to \$9,950, up from \$1,350.

United said it is reviewing its compensation policies. The airline would not disclose its current payment limit.

Other airlines said they were examining their policies. American Airlines updated its rules to say that no passenger who has boarded the plane will be removed to give the seat to someone else.

None would describe their limits on paying passengers.

When there aren't enough seats, airlines usually ask for volunteers by offering travel vouchers, gift cards or cash.

Last year Delta got more passengers to give up their seats than any other U.S. air-



In this Thursday, Oct. 13, 2016, file photo, a Delta Air Lines jet sits at a gate at Hartsfield-Jackson Atlanta International Airport, in Atlanta. AP

line, partly by paying more than most of the others.

As a result, it had the lowest rate among the largest U.S. airlines of bumping people off flights against their will—something that is legal but alienates customers and requires the airline to pay compensation of up to \$1,350 per person.

Overselling flights is a fact of life in the airline business. Industry officials say that it is necessary because some passengers don't show up, and that overbooking keeps fares down by reducing the number of empty seats.

The practice has been questioned, however, since video of the United Express incident went viral. United Continental CEO Oscar Munoz's initial attempts to apologize were roundly criticized. On Friday, company Chairman Robert Milton said the board supported Munoz.

"We need to use this regrettable event as a defining moment and pivot off it to craft friendly policies," Milton said in a note to employees.

The dragging has turned into a public-relations nightmare for the entire industry, not just United, and led to calls from politicians and consumer advocates to suspend or ban overbooking.

Ben Schlappig, a travel blogger who first wrote about the Delta compensation increase, said it shows Delta is trying to reduce forced bumping. He said he couldn't imagine many situations in which people wouldn't jump at nearly \$10,000.

How Trump insurance changes could affect coverage next year

By TOM MURPHY
AP HEALTH WRITER

A much tighter sign-up deadline and coverage delays will be waiting for some health insurance customers now that President Donald Trump's administration has finished a plan designed to stabilize shaky insurance markets.

Shoppers will have a shorter time period to choose a 2018 plan and a harder time enrolling outside that window if they lose a job or have some other special circumstance that affects their coverage. Insurers also will have more flexibility to design lower-cost coverage under a set of changes announced Thursday for the Affordable Care Act's insurance exchanges.

nounced Thursday for the Affordable Care Act's insurance exchanges.

The exchanges, accessed by customers through the federal HealthCare.gov or state-run sites, were established as a way for people to compare and shop for insurance coverage. But insurers have raised prices sharply or abandoned markets in many regions, leaving some customers with little choice. Companies are considering leaving more markets for next year because they say they are losing money. The administration responded with a series of changes aimed at reducing the number of insurance company defections while it pur-

sues a broader remake of the federal law.

These changes may help convince insurers to return to the market for next year, but they also could make shopping tougher for consumers in a few ways.

Customers will have 45 days to shop for 2018 coverage, starting Nov. 1 and ending Dec. 15. In previous years, they had twice that much time, and could still buy coverage until Jan. 31. The tighter time frame aims to prevent people from gaming the system by waiting until they become sick before signing up for coverage.

The smaller enrollment window could be tough on some

shoppers because they often have to search for an insurance plan that includes their doctor to avoid big medical bills.

That's no quick task when a patient has several doctors, insurers are leaving exchanges, and those that remain have narrow doctor networks. Then shoppers have to figure out whether they can afford the coverage and if any tax credits are available to help.

"It's a very delicate subject when you're dealing with someone's health and if the plan doesn't work, you're stuck with it for the next year," said Dallas-based broker Tanya Boyd. "It's not a five-minute conversation."

Trump admin. declines to brand China a currency manipulator

WASHINGTON (AP)—The Trump administration declined Friday to label China a currency manipulator despite President Donald Trump's inconsistent pledge during the election campaign that he would do so as soon as he took office.

Instead, the administration's first twice-yearly currency review singled out China and five other countries as needing to be monitored for their currency practices. The countries—China, Japan, Germany, South Korea, Taiwan and Switzerland—were the same six named in the last currency report issued by the Obama administration in October.

The decision not to name China a currency manipulator has marked one of the sharp-

est major reversals of Trump's young presidency.

In its report to Congress, the Treasury Department noted that Beijing had intervened in currency markets for about a decade to depress the value of its currency, the renminbi. Keeping the renminbi low gave its exporters a competitive edge by making Chinese goods more affordable overseas and other nations' products costlier for Chinese buyers.

But reflecting the views of most economists, Treasury concluded that China has recently been intervening to do the opposite—to keep the renminbi from falling against the dollar and other currencies.

Still, despite that reversal,

holding down the renminbi had imposed "significant and long-lasting hardship on American workers and companies" and left China with the largest trade surplus of any country against the United States—\$347 billion last year.

The report said Treasury would review the currency and other trade practices of the six nations named to the monitoring list and meet with finance officials from those nations to ensure progress in shrinking their trade imbalances with the United States.

"An essential component of this administration's strategy is to ensure that American workers and companies face a level playing field when competing internationally," Treasury Sec-

retary Steven Mnuchin said in a statement.

Treasury hasn't branded any nation a currency manipulator—a highly charged assertion—since the Clinton administration labeled China as such in 1994. The designation requires intensive talks between the United States and the designated country and can lead to penalty tariffs imposed by the United States. Such tariffs, though, could be overturned in a review by the World Trade Organization.

Because it had been more than two decades since any country had been named a currency manipulator, Congress in 2015 changed the law to require Treasury to put countries on a less onerous "monitoring" list.

Nation

Tax Day demonstrators in US take on Trump, his supporters

CHICAGO (AP)—Thousands of chanting, sign-carrying protesters took to the streets in cities across the nation Saturday, demanding that President Donald Trump release his tax returns, so Americans can scrutinize his business ties and potential conflicts of interest.

Violent clashes were the exception during the largely peaceful demonstrations, but in Berkeley, California, police arrested 13 people and confiscated knives and makeshift weapons after fistfights broke out between factions that support and oppose Trump.

Trump was the first major-party nominee in more than 40 years not to release his tax re-

turns, saying it was because he was under audit. He later said that voters don't care.

But 71-year-old Ilene Singh said he's wrong. She rode a bus from New Jersey to New York City with her friend Geraldine Markowitz, 83, to take part in protests. "We're here to say we care," said Singh.

Pushing her walker, Karin Arlin, 85, a Holocaust survivor who came to the U.S. from Germany when she was 9, said she's also worried about the direction of the country.

"You don't know which way the country goes," said Arlin next to her 89-year-old husband who fled Czechoslovakia during World War II. "I hope Republicans see it."

Actress and producer Justine Bateman, who addressed several thousand people at a rally in downtown Los Angeles, said Americans need "financial statement proof" that Trump is not beholden to any business interests or country other than the U.S.

In Washington, D.C., one of Trump's sharpest critics in the House spoke to protesters at the U.S. Capitol just before they set off on a march to the National Mall. Democratic Rep. Maxine Waters, of California, said there's nothing to prevent Trump from releasing his income taxes and that "the simple truth is he's got a lot to hide."

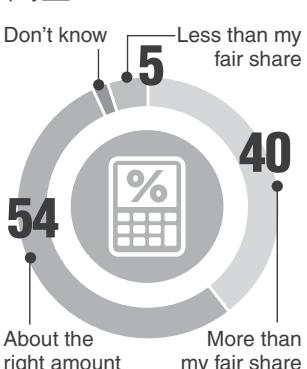
"If he thinks he can get away with playing king, he's got another thought coming," Waters said.

The 13 arrests in Berkeley came Saturday after about 200 people gathered at the Martin Luther King Jr. Civic Center Park for separate rallies and pushing and fistfights began. Officers confiscated knives, flagpoles, helmets and sticks with signs on them, things that were being used as weapons.

In Las Vegas, police said a broadcast photojournalist for KLAS-TV was arrested and cited for trespassing and obstructing during a protest at Trump International Hotel near the Strip. Event organizer Laura Martin says at least three others were detained but

Do you pay your fair share?

The percent who say they pay in taxes



Source: Pew Research Institute
Graphic: Staff, TNS

released. Authorities said the protest was attended by about 250 people.

For four decades, presidents

and major party nominees have released some of their tax returns, with the exception of Gerald Ford. Trump's break with precedent has raised questions about possible conflicts of interest.

Protesters in Raleigh, North Carolina, said they suspect that Trump's returns might show he has paid little or nothing to the government he now heads, or that he was indebted to Russian, Chinese or other foreign interests.

"His reputation ... as a businessman and, more importantly, as a true American, a person who is concerned with American values, would be totally destroyed if all his financial information was made public," said Mike Mannhardt, a retired teacher.



A woman in Seattle holds a sign during a rally that reads "Show us your tax returns, Comrade" in reference to calls for President Donald Trump to release his tax returns and a reference to his alleged ties to Russia, Saturday, April 15, 2017.

Black Muslims aim for unity in challenging time for Islam

DEARBORN, Mich. (AP)—In her job as a refugee case manager, Fatimah Farooq would come to work in a hijab and speak with her clients in Arabic. Nonetheless, she found herself being asked whether she was Muslim.

It's not easy, Farooq says, navigating her dual identities as black and Muslim.

"I'm constantly trying to prove that I belong," said Farooq, who now works in public health. "It's really hard not to be an outsider in a community—especially today, in the current times."

Many Muslims are reeling from a U.S. presidential

administration that's cracked down on immigrants, including through the introduction of a travel ban that suspends new visas for people from six Muslim-majority countries and is now tied up in court. But black American-born Muslims say they have been pushed to the edges of the conversations—even by those who share the same religion.

They say they often feel discrimination on multiple fronts: for being black, for being Muslim and for being black and Muslim among a population of immigrant Muslims. Farooq, whose Sudanese parents came to the U.S. before

she was born, said her own family used to attend a largely African-American mosque but then moved to a predominantly Arab one—yet in both cases still felt like "outsiders."

The identity issues have rippled into social media with Twitter's #BeingBlackAndMuslim and @BlkMuslim-Wisdom formed in recent weeks to amplify stories of black Muslims, whether it's to praise Mahershala Ali, who is black and became the first Muslim actor to win an Oscar, or to express concern over the lack of black speakers at a recent Islamic conference. Tensions are also being aired

at community town halls, with panelists questioning why there hasn't been more involvement from Arab and South Asian Muslims in Black Lives Matter events.

In response, activists say they're seizing the opportunity to unite Muslims of all backgrounds.

Kashif Syed, who lives in the Washington, D.C. area, grew up in a family of South Asian Muslim immigrants around Detroit that was insulated from black Muslims. Now that he's part of a young professional Muslim community, he's trying to honor the experiences of others.

ACROSS THE NATION

Judge halts Arkansas plan to execute 8 inmates in 11 days

LITTLE ROCK, Ark. (AP)—A federal judge dealt a serious blow Saturday to Arkansas' unprecedented plan to execute eight inmates in an 11-day period, saying the men have the right to challenge a drug protocol that could expose them to "severe pain." The state appealed U.S. District Judge Kristine Baker's order hours later, hoping to follow through with its planned executions, with the first scheduled for Monday. Arkansas' supply of one of its three lethal injection drugs, midazolam, expires April 30 and Republican Gov. Asa Hutchinson has said he wants to use the drugs before they spoil. Manufacturers object to states using their drugs in executions, and the Arkansas Department of Corrections said in previous court filings that it doesn't have a way of obtaining more of the sedative midazolam. A drug supplier, meanwhile, asked a state judge to lift a temporary restraining order preventing Arkansas from using a paralyzing drug, vecuronium bromide, and sought to drop its lawsuit claiming Arkansas obtained the drug under false pretenses.

DNA leads to arrest in murder of jogger in Massachusetts

PRINCETON, Mass. (AP)—DNA evidence and an attentive state trooper helped find the man authorities believe killed a New York City woman last summer who was out jogging near her mother's Massachusetts

home, authorities said Saturday. "Good afternoon. We got him," Worcester County District Attorney Joseph Early Jr. proclaimed at a news conference Saturday outside the police department in Princeton, a small community of about 3,500 residents in central Massachusetts. It's about 40 miles (64 kilometers) west of Boston. "We're very comfortable that we've got Vanessa Marcotte's killer," Early said. The body of 27-year-old Marcotte was found Aug. 7 in some woods about a half-mile from her mother's house, where the young woman was visiting family. Marcotte, who worked as an account manager for Google in New York, had gone out to run several hours earlier.

It's a boy! Zoo confirms April the giraffe's calf is a male

HARPURSVILLE, N.Y. (AP)—And baby makes glee. Before an online audience of more than a million viewers, April the giraffe gave birth to a male calf Saturday at a New York zoo, ending weeks of proverbial pacing by animal lovers in a virtual worldwide waiting room. The 15-year-old giraffe delivered her calf shortly before 10 a.m. EDT in an enclosed pen at the zoo in Harpurville, a rural upstate village about 130 miles (209 kilometers) northwest of New York City. The mama giraffe tenderly licked her calf, which began to slowly pick its head up from the floor of the pen. About 45 minutes after it was born, the calf stood on its wobbly legs for the first time while mom helped keep her baby steady. He began nursing not long after.

Asia

US: N. Korean test missile explodes on launch

SEOUL, South Korea

(AP)—A North Korean missile exploded during launch Sunday, U.S. and South Korean officials said, a high-profile failure that comes as a powerful U.S. aircraft supercarrier approaches the Korean Peninsula in a show of force.

It wasn't immediately clear what kind of missile was test-fired from the east coast city of Sinpo. But the failure will sting in Pyongyang because it comes a day after one of the biggest North Korean propaganda events of the year—celebrations of the 105th birthday of late North Korea founder Kim Il Sung, the current leader's grandfather.

The North's test firing can be seen as a message of defiance to the Trump administration in Washington, coming as it does on the day U.S. Vice President Mike Pence is set to arrive in Seoul for talks on North Korea.

President Donald Trump was uncharacteristically quiet about the failed launch. In a statement, Defense Secretary Jim Mattis said Trump and his military team "are aware of North Korea's most recent unsuccessful missile launch. The president has no



AP
People walk by a TV news showing a map of North Korea with the location of the city of Sinpo while reporting North Korea's rocket launch, in Tokyo, Sunday, April 16, 2017.

missiles that have South Korea and Japan within its striking range.

The U.S. Pacific Command said in a statement that Sunday's missile exploded on launch. South Korea's Defense Ministry said it was analyzing exactly how the North Korean launch failed. Neither military knew what kind of missile was fired.

In Seoul, South Korea's presidential office convened a national security council meeting to examine security postures.

Always high animosity has risen on the Korean Peninsula in recent months, as the United States and South Korea conduct annual war games that North Korea claims are invasion preparation and the North prepared for Saturday's anniversary celebrations. A U.S. aircraft carrier, the USS Carl Vinson, is heading to waters off Korea in a show of force.

further comment."

Washington and Seoul will try hard to figure out what exactly North Korea fired. This matters because while North Korea regularly launches short-range missiles, it is also developing

mid-range and long-range missiles meant to target U.S. troops in Asia and, eventually, the U.S. mainland.

The ultimate goal is to have a full array of nuclear-tipped missiles in response to what Pyongyang says is hostility by

Washington and Seoul meant to topple its government. North Korea is thought to have a small arsenal of atomic bombs and an impressive array of short- and medium-range missiles.

Many outside analysts be-

lieve that North Korea has not yet mastered the technology to build warheads small enough to place on long-range missiles, though some civilian experts say North Korea can already build nuclear-tipped shorter range

patches, for the Bohol assault.

The officials spoke on condition of anonymity because they were not authorized to disclose details of the ongoing investigation of the foiled attack.

While considered a key commander and emerging leader of Abu Sayyaf, Askali had also led a hard-line Abu Sayyaf faction called the Marakat Ansar Battalion, which is among 10 small armed groups that pledged allegiance to IS about three years ago and formed an IS-inspired alliance in the southern Philippines. Askali had been implicated in the beheadings of two Canadian hostages last year and a German tourist in February in Sulu's jungles, the officials said.

Other Abu Sayyaf commanders have refused to align themselves with the Middle East-based extremist group, according to the officials.

Aside from Askali, another key Sulu-based militant killed in Bohol was Edimar Isnain, who had worked with Malaysian and Indonesian militants in assembling bombs and leading bomb-making training for recruits of Abu Sayyaf and another violent group called Dawla Islamiya Ranao, also known as the Maute group,

PH: Foiled attack staged by IS-linked extremists

ASIAN BRIEFS

Pakistan army foils major terrorist attack on Easter Sunday

ISLAMABAD (AP)—Pakistan's military says security forces foiled a "major terrorist attack" on minority Christians when they killed a militant and detained his associate in the eastern city of Lahore. In a statement, the military said Saturday four soldiers were wounded in an overnight raid. It was unclear which militant group wanted to target Easter Sunday in Lahore, where more than 70 people were killed in a 2016 suicide bombing at a park, which was crowded with Christians and Muslims at the time. The latest raid came hours after Christians celebrated Good Friday by worshipping at city churches. Security forces in recent months have stepped up operations against militants but Friday's raid and shootout came as Christians prepared to celebrate the day followers believe Jesus was resurrected from the dead.

16 killed in Sri Lanka as massive mound of garbage collapses

COLOMBO, Sri Lanka (AP)—At least 16 people

were killed and more than 600 others fled their homes after a massive mound of garbage collapsed on part of a town outside of Sri Lanka's capital during festivities to mark the local new year, officials said Saturday. Four people were rescued from underneath the mound, but it was unclear whether any others were buried, said military spokesman Roshan Seneviratne. Soldiers were searching the site. Seneviratne said 625 people whose homes were either destroyed or under threat were being housed in nearby schools. The Disaster Management Center said at least 12 other people were injured in the incident, which happened Friday night in Meetotamulla, a town near Colombo. The site has been used to dump Colombo's garbage for the past few years as authorities sought to give the capital a face-lift. But residents living in tiny homes in the area have protested against waste being dumped there because of health hazards. Prime Minister Ranil Wickremesinghe said in a statement Saturday that the government would soon remove the garbage dump from the area.

MANILA, Philippines (AP)—A foiled attack on a central Philippine resort island this week was a kidnapping and bombing mission by at least three extremist groups affiliated with the Islamic State group in one of their most daring terror plots, security officials said Saturday.

The Philippine military initially said that government forces, backed by airstrikes, successfully detected and thwarted a kidnapping plot by Abu Sayyaf militants in the island province of Bohol, a popular tourist destination far from the militants' southern jungle bases.

Three soldiers, a policeman, two villagers and at least four militants, including key Abu Sayyaf commander and spokesman Moammar Askali, were killed in the daylong siege Tuesday in a hinterland village in Bohol's Inabanga town.

Military spokesman Brig. Gen. Restituto Padilla said combined military and police forces thwarted in Bohol "major terrorist activities" by the militants, who were aiming to divert the military's focus from intense offensives on the militants' jungle encampments in southern Sulu province and outlying islands.



"The persons who died in the area, some of whom have been identified to be known terrorists, are still the subject of a continuing investigation to ascertain their participation," Padilla said, adding that the result of the investigation would be made public in the near future.

Interviews with three security officials, along with documents and pictures seen by The Associated Press, indicated that three extremist groups that have pledged allegiance to IS deployed their leading bombers and fighters, some of whom wore IS-style black flag

based in southern Lanao del Sur province.

Troops recovered four assault rifles, rifle grenades and a sack load of bomb-making materials, including detonating cords, blasting caps and electronic bomb parts, a military report said.

The AP obtained military pictures of Isnain's body, which was dug up by troops in Inabanga, and the other casualties, including an elderly village couple. It's not clear whether the two Inabanga villagers were killed in the cross-fire or gunned down by the cornered Abu Sayyaf militants at the height of the fighting.

The militants, who traveled from Sulu, more than 500 kilometers (300 miles) by motor boat to the south of Bohol, were guided to Inabanga's interior hinterlands by Joselito Melloria, a convert to Islam. Military officials believed he

may have been designated to lead another IS-linked extremist band called Ansar Khilafa Philippines had the Bohol attack been successful, the officials said. The AKP group's leader, Mohammad Jaafar Maguid, was killed by Philippine counterterrorism forces in southern Sarangani province in January.

World

Over 100 killed during Syria's troubled population transfer

BEIRUT (AP)—A stalled population transfer resumed Saturday after a deadly explosion killed at least 100, including children, government supporters and opposition fighters, at an evacuation point—adding new urgency to the widely criticized operation.

The blast ripped through a bus depot in the al-Rashideen area where thousands of government loyalists evacuated the day before waited restlessly for hours, as opposition fighters guarded the area while negotiators bickered over the completion of the transfer deal. Only meters away, hundreds of evacuees from pro-rebels areas also loitered in a walled-off parking lot, guarded by government troops.

Footage from the scene showed bodies, including those of fighters, lying alongside buses, some of which were charred and others gutted from the blast. Personal belongings could be seen dangling out of the windows. Fires raged from a number of vehicles as rescuers struggled to put them out.

The scenes were the last in the unyielding bloodshed Syrians are living through. Earlier this month, at least 89 people were killed in a chemical attack as children foaming at the mouth and adults gasping for last breath were also caught on camera.

The bloody mayhem that followed the Saturday attack only deepened the resentment of the transfer criticized as population engineering. It also reflected the chaos surrounding negotiations between the warring parties. The United Nations did not oversee the transfer deal of the villages of Foua and Kfraya, besieged by



This frame grab from video provided by the Thiqqa News Agency, shows rebel gunmen stand at the site of a blast that damaged several buses carrying evacuees, at the Rashideen area, a rebel-controlled district outside Aleppo city, Syria, Saturday, April 15, 2017. AP

the rebels, and Madaya and Zabadani, encircled by the government.

No one claimed responsibility for the attack but pro-government media and the opposition exchanged accusations, each pointing to foreign interference or conspiracies undermining the deal.

State TV al-Ikhbariya said the attack was the result of a car bomb carrying food aid to be delivered to the evacuees in the rebel-held area - ostensibly crisps for the children - and accused rebel groups of carrying it out. A TV broadcaster from the area said: "There can be no life with the terrorist groups."

"I know nothing of my family. I can't find them," said a woman who appeared on al-Ikhbariya, weeping outside the state hospital in Aleppo where the wounded were transported.

Ahrar al-Sham, the rebel group that negotiated the deal, denounced the "cowardly" attack, saying a number of opposition fighters as well as government supporters were killed in the attack. The group said the attack only serves to deflect the attention from government "crimes" and said it was ready to cooperate with an international probe to determine who did it.

Yasser Abdelatif, a media official for Ahrar al-Sham, said about 30 rebel gunmen were killed in the blast. He accused the government or extremist rebel groups of orchestrating the attack to discredit the opposition.

The Syrian Civil Defense in Aleppo province, also known as the White Helmets, said their volunteers pulled at least 100 bodies from the site of the explosion. White Helmets

member Ibrahim Alhaj said the 100 fatalities documented by the rescuers included many children and women, as well as fighters.

Syrian state media said at least 39 were killed, including children. The opposition Syrian Observatory for Human Rights put the death toll at 43, adding that it would likely rise because of the extensive damage. A Facebook page belonging to the pro-government Foua and Kfraya villages said all those in three buses were killed or are still missing while a rebel official said at least 30 opposition fighters who were guarding the evacuees were killed in the blast.

According to Abdul Hakim Baghadi, an interlocutor who helped the government negotiate the evacuations, 140 were killed in the attack. He added it was not clear how many rebels were killed because they

were evacuated to their areas.

Hours after the explosion, the transfer resumed—as dozens of buses, starting with the

Pope denounces corruption, injustices that 'crucify' dignity

VATICAN CITY (AP)—Pope Francis on Saturday denounced how migrants, the poor and marginalized see their "human dignity crucified" every day through injustice and corruption, and urged the faithful in an Easter Vigil message to keep hope alive for a better future.

Francis presided over the solemn late-night ceremony in St. Peter's Basilica at a time of heightened security fears following a spate of Islamic-inspired attacks and tensions over Europe's migrant influx.

Security was particularly tight, part of the heavier-than-usual safety measures that have been deployed around the world for Holy Week activities, particularly following the twin Palm Sunday attacks on Coptic churches in Egypt

that killed at least 45 people.

Holding a single candle, Francis processed down the basilica's center aisle, symbolizing the darkness that fell after Jesus' crucifixion on Good Friday. When Francis reached the altar, the basilica's floodlights turned on, symbolizing the light of Christ's resurrection.

In his homily, Francis recalled the biblical scene of two women approaching Jesus' tomb and said their desolation over his death can be seen every day in the faces of women whose children have been victims of poverty, exploitation and injustice.

"We can also see the faces of those who are greeted with contempt because they are immigrants, deprived of country, house and family," he said.

Others are victims of para-

lized bureaucracies and corruption "that strips them of their rights and shatters their dreams," the pope said, echoing two themes he has emphasized in his four-year papacy: caring for migrants and denouncing corruption.

"In their grief, these two women reflect the faces of all those who, walking the streets of our cities, behold human dignity crucified."

But rather than remain resigned to such a fate, Francis urged the faithful to have hope, as symbolized by Christ's resurrection.

He called for Catholics to "break down all the walls that keep us locked in our sterile pessimism, in our carefully constructed ivory towers that isolate us from life, in our compulsive need for security and in boundless

ambition that can make us compromise the dignity of others."

Saturday's late-night service included the baptism of 11 people, including two children and one woman from China.

It came just hours after Francis presided over the evocative torch-lit Good Friday procession at Rome's Colosseum, where he repeatedly denounced the "shame" of the blood spilled by innocent children, women and migrants in the world's conflicts, shipwrecks and other tragedies.

On Sunday, Francis will celebrate the joyful Easter Mass in a flower-filled St. Peter's Square. Thousands of people are expected to brave street closures, metal detectors and other security measures to reach the square for the Mass.

Polls open in Turkey's historic referendum on reforms

ISTANBUL (AP)—Voters in Turkey were deciding Sunday on the future of their country, with polling stations opening for a historic referendum on whether to approve reforms that would concentrate power in the hands of the president.

If the "yes" vote prevails, the 18 constitutional changes will convert Turkey's system of government from parliamentary to presidential, abolish the office of the prime minister and grant extensive executive powers to President Recep Tayyip Erdogan.

Erdogan, who called the referendum and has championed the "yes" campaign, says the proposed "Turkish style" presidential system will ensure the country no longer risks having weak governments, and insists the stability will lead to a long period of prosperity. But opponents fear the changes will lead to autocratic one-man rule, ensuring that Erdogan, who has been accused of repressing rights and freedoms, could govern until 2029 with few checks and balances.

Polls in eastern Turkey opened at 7 a.m. (0400 GMT) and were to close at 4 p.m. (1300 GMT), while those in the more populous west were opening and closing an hour later. More than 55 million people in this country of about 80 million are registered to vote.

wounded, left to their respective destinations. Before midnight Saturday, 100 of some 120 buses from both sides had already arrived.

The explosion hit the al-Rashideen area, a rebel-controlled district outside Aleppo city where evacuation buses carrying nearly 5,000 people from the northern rebel-beleaguered villages of Foua and Kfraya were stuck. Residents from the two villages had been evacuated Friday, along with more than 2,000 from Madaya, an opposition-held town outside of Damascus besieged by government forces.

A "yes" vote will grant the president the power to appoint ministers and senior government officials, appoint half the members in Turkey's highest judicial body, issue decrees and declare states of emergency. It sets a limit of two five-year terms for presidents. The changes would come into effect with the next general elections, scheduled for 2019.

The campaign has been highly divisive and heavily one-sided, with the "yes" side dominating the airwaves and billboards across the country. Supporters of the "no" vote have complained of an atmosphere of intimidation, with the main opposition party recording more than 100 incidents of obstruction to its campaign efforts, including beatings, detentions and threats.

The vote also comes at a time when Turkey has been buffeted by problems. Erdogan survived a coup attempt last July, which he has blamed on his former ally and current nemesis Fethullah Gulen, an Islamic cleric living in the United States. A state of emergency imposed in the coup aftermath remains in effect. A widespread government crackdown has targeted followers of Gulen and other government opponents, branding them terrorists.

Focus



Harder on Russia and softer on China, TRUMP'S VIEWS EVOLVING

AP
In this Thursday, April 6, 2017, file photo, President Donald Trump shakes hands with Chinese President Xi Jinping as he arrives before dinner at Mar-a-Lago resort, in Palm Beach, Fla.

By JOSH LEDERMAN
ASSOCIATED PRESS

WASHINGTON (AP)—Once soft on Russia and hard on China, President Donald Trump rapidly reversed course in the last weeks, concluding there's more business to be done with Beijing than with Moscow.

Trump's evolving views on those two world powers have brought the U.S. back into alignment with former President Barack Obama's pattern of "great power" politics. Though Russia critics welcomed Trump's newly hardened tone, there's less enthusiasm from America's allies in Asia, who fear the U.S. could overlook China's more aggressive posture toward its neighbors.

It may be that Trump, the businessman-turned-world leader, is discovering China's transactional approach to foreign relations is better suited to achieving his own goals. Chinese leaders have sought a U.S. relationship based on the two powers respecting each other's spheres of influence and not intervening in one another's internal affairs.

Such a balance-of-powers approach had been Russia's

traditional stance. Moscow still wants Washington out of its backyard, but Russia's alleged campaigns to influence the U.S. presidential election and upcoming votes in the heart of Western Europe have made it harder for American officials to take the offer seriously. Russia's support for Syrian President Bashar Assad and Trump's newfound commitment to militarily countering any chemical weapons attacks also is proving hard to square.

Also, Trump and Russian President Vladimir Putin's shared tendency toward nationalist, "don't-mess-with-us" rhetoric may be putting the pair on a collision course. The sudden U-turn has been head-snapping for people around the world, despite Trump's self-professed penchant for unpredictability and willingness to adapt to changing circumstances.

As the Republican presidential nominee, Trump praised Putin repeatedly as a strong, "very smart" leader. Trump dismissed America's Russia hawks as "stupid people or fools" and predicted under his leadership that the Cold War foes would "work together to solve some of the many great and pressing problems and is-

sues of the world."

Trump's gestures to Moscow even fueled perceptions that his campaign and Russia were colluding to help him get elected—a possibility the FBI is now investigating.

"Frankly, if we got along with Russia and knocked out ISIS, that would be a good thing, not a bad thing," Trump told a radio host in October, citing his still unrealized goal to have both countries cooperate to defeat the Islamic State group.

This past week, it was the opposite message, as the U.S. and Russia feuded about Syria.

"We're not getting along with Russia at all," Trump said. "We may be at an all-time low."

Trump's declaration came at a joint news conference with the leader of NATO, an alliance established as a Cold War bulwark against the Soviet Union. Trump had dismissed NATO as "obsolete," but now says it is "no longer obsolete."

As he shifts away from Russia, Trump is offering an outstretched hand to China. Trump recently hosted Chinese President Xi Jinping at Trump's Florida resort, and on Thursday hailed Xi as a "ter-

rific person" and a "very special man."

For years Trump said that China was "eating our lunch," and he peppered his campaign rallies with promises to label China a currency manipulator as one of his first acts. He even threatened to start a trade war, arguing that China's trade surplus was the reason for America's economic woes.

Trump's growing focus on the North Korean threat, heightened by signs the North might soon conduct another nuclear test, has changed Trump's thinking. Now he is looking for help from China,

North Korea's dominant trade partner, and easing up on his rhetoric. "I think China has really been working very hard" on North Korea, he said.

Coinciding with this new assessment was Trump's announcement that he won't declare China a currency manipulator. It was Trump's second major concession to Xi, after backing away from a threat to abandon America's "One China" policy that sees Taiwan as part of China.

So what did Trump, the self-declared deal-maker, get in return?

"The U.S. hasn't gotten

anything from China yet," said Evan Medeiros, who was Obama's top Asia adviser in the White House. "The question becomes, if they don't give him what he wants, what happens next?"

Trump and White House aides have pointed to Beijing's move to restrict coal imports from North Korea as a sign it's listening to Trump. But the restriction merely put in place U.N. sanctions passed last year with China's support—before Trump took office.

Although U.S. allies Japan and South Korea are heartened by Trump's North Korea focus, his softer tack toward Beijing is causing concern. China's other designs for Asia include staking sovereignty to maritime territories, sometimes far from its coast, that others countries claim as well.

Despite Trump's argument that China is taking North Korea seriously, China remains adamantly opposed to U.S. deployment of an advanced missile defense system in South Korea. Trump, like Obama before him, insists the system's sole purpose is to protect against the North. Beijing isn't so sure, and doesn't like such sophisticated radar being able to peer into Chinese territory.



Russian Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov listens for a question during a shared with Iranian Foreign Minister Mohammad Javad Zarif and Syrian Foreign Minister Walid Muallem news conference following their talks focused on Syria in Moscow, Russia, Friday, April 14, 2017.

Good Friday Mt. Tapochao Trek

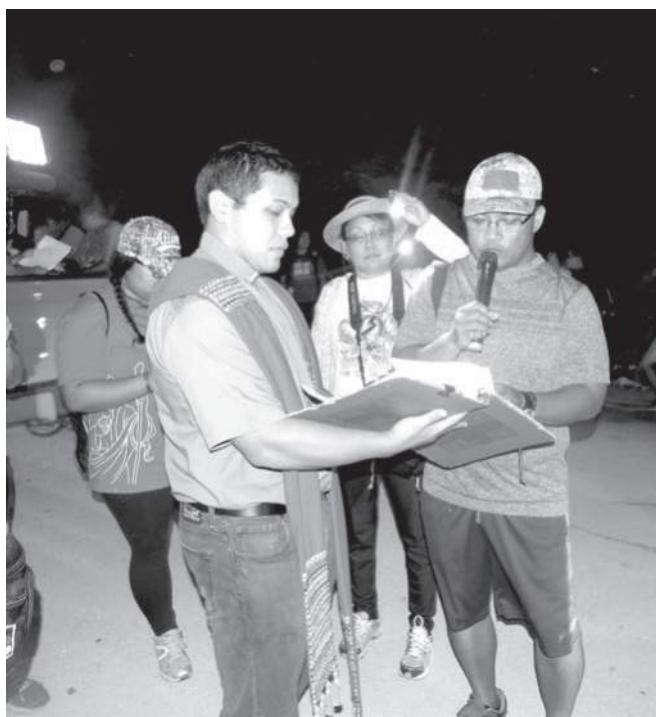
Photos By
KIMBERLY A. BAUTISTA



Volunteers that tended the Office of the Governor's tent passed out fruits and water bottles at the base of Mt. Tapochao before participants started their trek last Friday morning.



The Saipan Cyclers group rode their bikes up Mt. Tapochao last Friday in commemoration of Good Friday. The group has been riding up Mt. Tapochao for the last six years.



Father James Balajadia conducted a short mass at the base of Mt. Tapochao before devotees carry the 28-foot tall cross to the top of the mountain last Friday.



Devotees carried the 28-foot tall cross up Mt. Tapochao at around 6am last Friday.



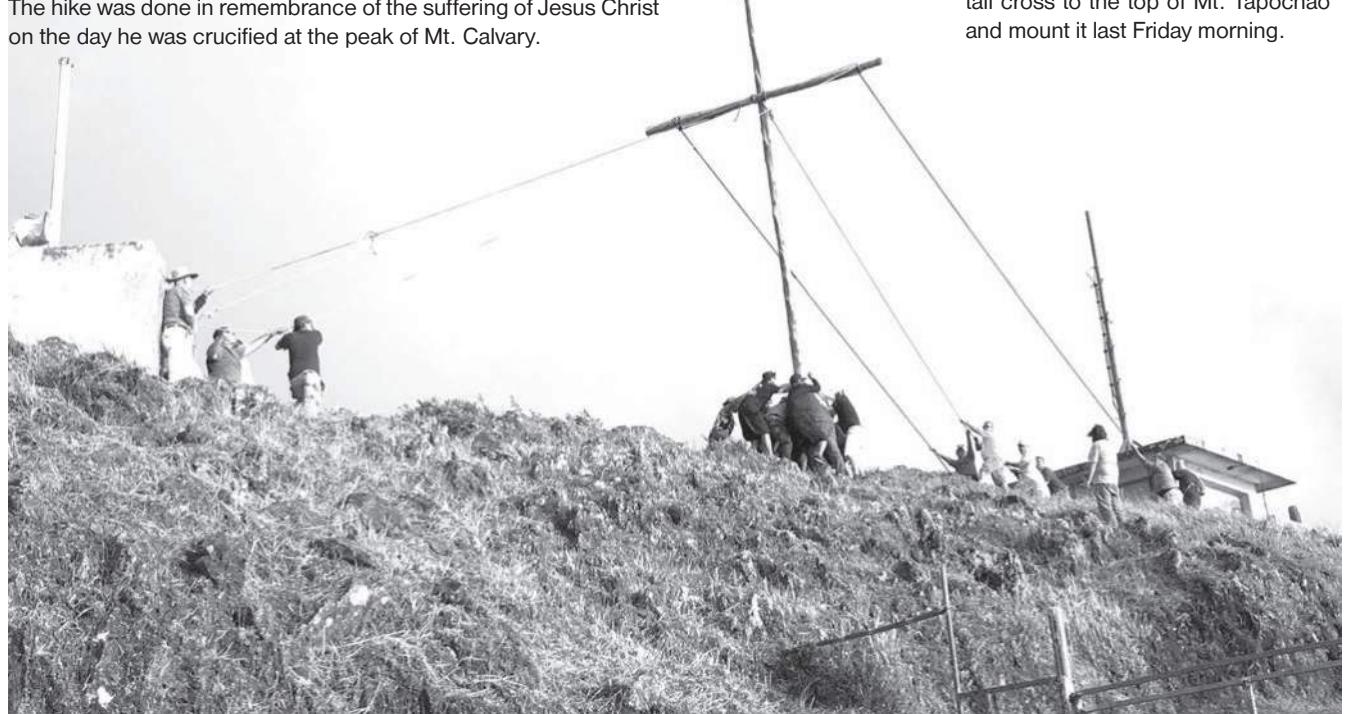
The 28-foot tall cross was laid at the base of Mt. Tapochao while devotees waited for the carrying of the cross to start.



Many joined the trek up Mt. Tapochao last Good Friday, April 14. The hike was done in remembrance of the suffering of Jesus Christ on the day he was crucified at the peak of Mt. Calvary.



Many volunteered to carry the 28-foot tall cross to the top of Mt. Tapochao and mount it last Friday morning.



A 28-foot tall cross was unloaded from the back of a truck at around 5:30am last Friday morning at Mt. Tapochao.

The 28-foot tall cross was a challenge to mount; so many men volunteered to help mount the cross at the peak of Mt. Tapochao last Friday morning.

Health & Fitness

Cellulitis can be life-threatening, so prompt treatment is key

Dear Mayo Clinic: What causes cellulitis, and how is it treated?

A: Cellulitis is a bacterial infection that typically affects the deeper layers of your skin and the layer of fat just beneath. It's quite common, especially among middle-aged and older adults. Most often, cellulitis occurs when a crack or cut in your skin allows bacteria to get inside and multiply.

Cellulitis can range from mild to severe. Most cases are treated effectively with antibiotics. Prompt treatment is key. If severe, or when left untreated, cellulitis can spread to your lymph nodes, bloodstream and deeper tissues, rapidly becoming life-threatening.

Cellulitis usually develops in the lower legs, although it can occur in any area with skin. The surface skin area appears red and swollen, and is typically painful and warm to the touch. Over time, the untreated area of redness expands.

Certain factors can put you at greater risk of cellulitis, including:

■ Wounds, cuts or incisions

Any opening in the skin—from a small scratch or an insect bite to an ulcer or a recent surgery—can provide an entryway for bacteria.

■ Skin condition

Conditions such as athlete's foot, dermatitis and eczema can cause the skin to break or crack, and increase your chance of developing cellulitis. Shingles can cause broken blisters that are vulnerable to infection. Itching leads to scratching, and scratching introduces bacteria to deeper layers. Swelling skin can become swollen because of damage to your veins (edema) or the lymphatic system (lymphedema) or following surgery. Stretched, swollen skin can crack, creating an entry point for bacteria.

■ Previous episodes

Having had cellulitis in the past increases your chances of having it again.

■ Peripheral neuropathy

Decreased sensation and an inability to feel an injury can increase the risk of cellulitis.

■ Other illnesses

Certain conditions such as diabetes or cancer can make you more prone to infection because of poor circulation or a weakened immune system. With diabetes, keeping blood sugars in control can reduce the risk of nerve or blood vessel diseases, as well as severity of cellulitis.

If you develop signs or symptoms of cellulitis, see your doctor as soon as possible. If symptoms are worsening or you also have a fever or chills, seek emergency care, because the infection may be severe or spreading rapidly.

To make a diagnosis, your health care provider likely will review your medical history and perform an exam to look for skin features that suggest cellulitis. If signs such as redness and swelling are developing on both legs, the cause is usually something other than cellulitis. Sometimes blood tests or imaging are necessary to rule out other conditions, including a blood clot in a leg vein (deep-vein thrombosis), a reaction to a drug or a skin irritant, lymphedema, or an infected joint. For simple, uncomplicated cellulitis, however, additional testing isn't required.

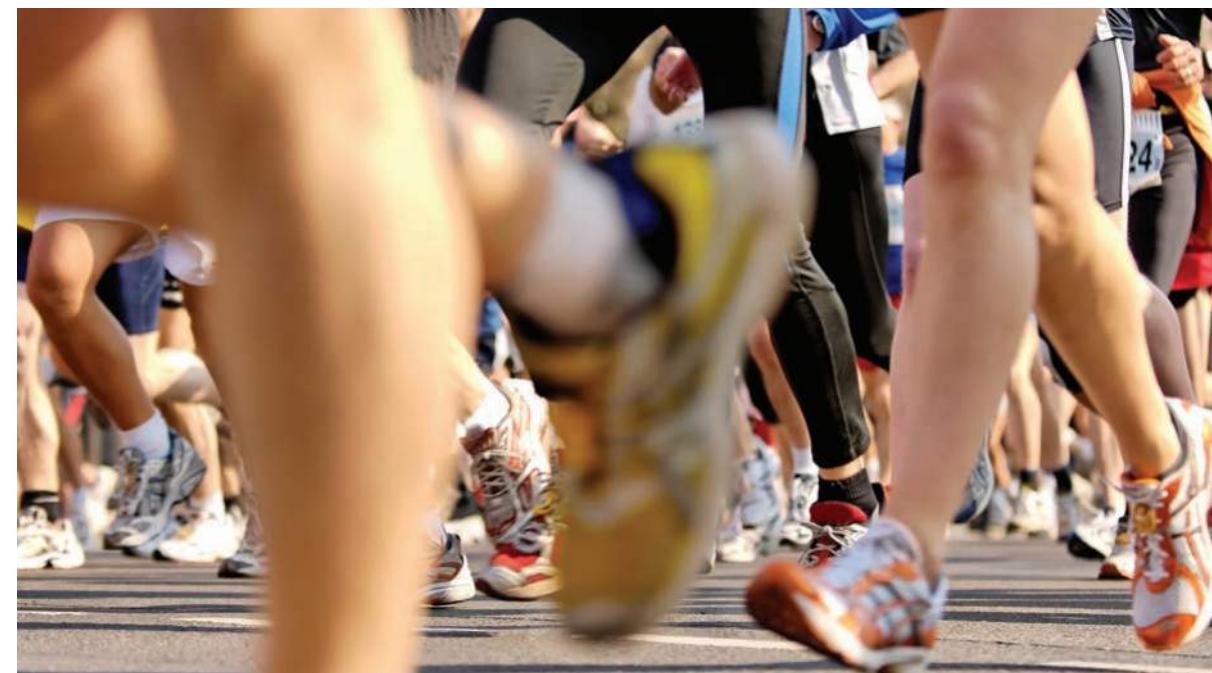
Cellulitis usually improves with antibiotic treatment in combination with local care (elevation and compression) that reduce swelling. Decreased swelling improves blood supply and circulation, getting the antibiotic to the infection and making the antibiotic more effective. Also, cool compresses can relieve discomfort.

Typically, antibiotics are taken for five to 14 days, depending on the severity and location of the infection and response to treatment. Most people start to feel better within two or three days of starting treatment; however, it is recommended that patients complete the entire course of antibiotic prescribed to ensure the infection resolves and the bacteria are eliminated.

Treating underlying conditions that make you more vulnerable to cellulitis, such as edema, eczema and diabetes, is also helpful in clearing up the present infection and preventing a recurrence.

More serious infections may require hospitalization for administration of antibiotics via IV and close monitoring for complications and improvement. While complications are rare, they can be serious and life-threatening. Sometimes, severe cellulitis can cause the surrounding tissue to die. Rarely, bacteria can enter the bloodstream, spreading the infection to distant parts of the body.

If you have recurring episodes of cellulitis, your doctor may recommend taking a long-term course of preventive antibiotics to keep the infection at bay. It also may help to visit with a dermatologist or an infectious disease specialist to look for other causes of your symptoms. (Mayo Clinic News Network)



DREAMSTIME/TNS

Conditions such as athlete's foot, dermatitis and eczema can cause the skin to break or crack, and increase your chance of developing cellulitis.

Personal Trainer

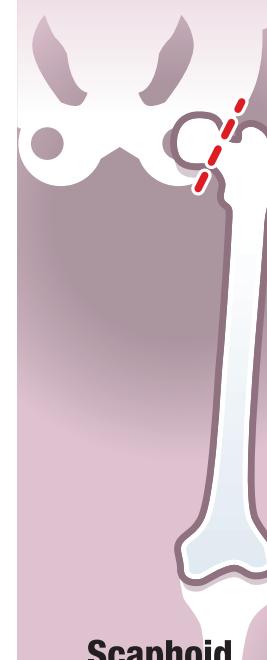
Wrong injury diagnosis

These serious injuries, common in sports, are the ones that are most often overlooked or misdiagnosed by trainers and physicians.

Concussion

Blow to the head that causes unconsciousness or changes in perception or awareness

Person should be examined by a physician



Femoral neck stress fracture

Usually caused by intense running; vague groin or thigh pain is often misdiagnosed as strain or tendinitis



Achilles tendon rupture

Usually makes popping sound; partial rupture may cause little pain, be mistaken for sprain



Anterior cruciate ligament (ACL) injury

Often misdiagnosed as sprain or collateral ligament knee strain



Scaphoid fracture

Falling onto hands breaks small bone in wrist; often diagnosed as sprain



Source: Exercise physiologist Elizabeth Quinn
Graphic: Helen Lee McComas, Paul Trap, Tribune News Service

This advertorial is sponsored by Tan Siu Lin Foundation


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Life & Style

Deals ensure cash keeps flowing to unsettled Prince estate

MINNEAPOLIS (AP)—A year after Prince died of an accidental drug overdose, his Paisley Park studio complex and home is now a museum and concert venue. Fans can now stream most of his classic albums, and a remastered “Purple Rain” album is due out in June along with two albums of unreleased music and two concert films from his vault.

Prince left no known will and had no known children when he died last April 21, and the judge overseeing Prince’s estate has yet to formally declare six of his siblings as its heirs. However, those running the estate have taken steps to preserve his musical legacy and keep the cash coming in. Here’s a look at where things stand:

THE MUSIC

The value of the music deals hasn’t been disclosed, and key financial information in voluminous court filings is sealed.

Universal Music Group was a big winner, reaching major deals that gave it the licensing rights to Prince’s vault of unreleased music and his independently recorded albums,



AP

In this Feb. 18, 1985 file photo, Prince performs at the Forum in Inglewood, Calif. A year after Prince died of an accidental drug overdose, his Paisley Park studio complex and home is now a museum and concert venue.

last month that he was “reasonably certain” he’ll ultimately declare the heirs to be Prince’s sister, Tyka Nelson, and his half-siblings Sharon Nelson, Norrine Nelson, John R. Nelson, Omarr Baker and Alfred Jackson.

After Prince died, more than 45 people filed claims purporting to be his wife, children, siblings or other relatives. They’ve all been rejected, but Eide has said he’ll wait for some appeals to run their course before making a final ruling, which could take several months or more. The six presumptive heirs have asked him to speed things up. A hearing on that request is set for May 10.

THE DISPUTES

With so much money at stake, there’s been some infighting. Court documents and testimony show that the siblings disagreed over who should control the estate, eventually settling on Comerica Bank & Trust as the executor.

The older half-siblings—Norine, Sharon, John and Alfred—also wanted a co-executor, former Prince attorney L. Londell McMillan, who was a key figure in the deals for monetizing Prince’s entertainment assets.

But Tyka and Omarr opposed McMillan, questioning his fitness to serve and accusing him of mismanaging a family tribute concert last October. They wanted CNN commentator Van Jones, who advised Prince on philanthropy. Citing the siblings’ inability to agree, the judge put Comerica in sole control.

McMillan continues to advise Norrine, Sharon and John, though a recent filing indicates Jackson has broken with him. Lawyers for Omarr and Tyka have subpoenaed a potentially huge volume of documents from McMillan. The judge will consider a motion to quash that subpoena at the May 10 hearing.

Sharon, meanwhile, claimed last month that Comerica was being “dictatorial and bullish.” Comerica denied any disrespectful, abusive or hostile conduct, but said the heirs don’t get to vote on how it runs the estate.

IN LOVING MEMORY OF

† Jose Terlaje Ada

“Josen A’guas/ Captain”
February 22, 1941 – April 09, 2017

In his new life, he now joins his

Wife: †Soledad Sablan Ada

Parents: †Vicente Delos Reyes Ada and

†Remedios Aquinonoc Terlaje

Parents In Law: †Nicolas P. Sablan and †Isabell Ilo Sablan

Children: †George S. Ada

†Manuel S. Ada and †Linda A. Ada

†James Michael S. Ada and †Nirislyn Ada

His memories will live in the hearts

of his Children and families:

Ronald S. and Miyako Ada

Joseph S. and Rosie T. Ada

Vicente S. and Linda B. Ada

Remedio A. Castro

Henry S. Ada

Solvinialynn A. and Ryan Torres

Bennylynn B. Ada

Vicente Jose B. Ada

Leticia Aldan

Brothers, Sisters and In-Laws:

†Frank T. Ada and Carol Ada

†Teresita A. and Isidro Pangelinan

†Merced A. and Jose Aguon

†Maria A. and †Jose SN. Lizama

Isidro T. Ada

Henry T. and Susan Ada

Vicente T. and Bernadita Ada

Ignacio T. and Teresita Ada

Pedro I. and Bonnie Sablan

Maria I. Sablan

†Alicia I. Sablan

†Rita S. and Richard Figuora

Connie I. Sablan

Edward Manibusan

†Gregorio and Frances Sablan

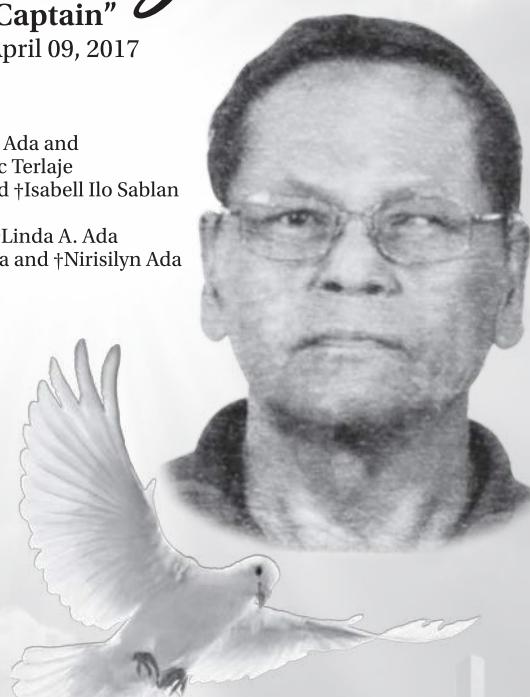
Antonio I. Sablan

Annie S. and Franklin Hunt

Margarita S. and †Jesus Cepeda

Gregorio I. and Helen V. Sablan

He is also survived by numerous nieces, nephews, relatives and friends.



Daily Mass of Intentions are being celebrated at St. Jude Church in Kobilerville each evening at 6:00 pm.

Funeral Services will be held on Tuesday, April 18, 2017. His remains will be escorted from Nuestra Señora dela Paz Memorial Chapel at 7:30am to St. Jude Church.

Mass of Christian Burial will be celebrated at 11:00am followed by interment service at Mt. Carmel Cemetery where he will be at a peaceful rest.

Please join us in prayers,
Thank you and Si Yu’us Ma’ase

The Family

publishing rights and merchandising rights.

Under related deals, Prince’s music is now available from major streaming services including Spotify, Apple Music, Pandora, Amazon Music and iHeartRadio.

But a lawsuit remains pending against Jay Z’s Roc Nation and the Tidal streaming service over alleged copyright violations. Tidal claims Prince gave it the exclusive right to stream his albums, including his Warner Bros. catalog. Estate lawyers say he gave Tidal limited rights to only one album, 2015’s “Hit N Run: Phase 1.”

PAISLEY PARK

Paisley Park, which is run by the company that runs Elvis Presley’s Graceland, opened for public tours in October. Visitors can see the studios and soundstage where Prince worked and pay their respects at the Paisley Park-shaped urn that holds his ashes. It also hosts dance parties and movie and video showings on Friday and Saturday nights.

Close to 100,000 people from around the world have taken the tour, even though winter was expected to be the slow season, said Joel Weinshanker, managing partner of PPark Management, who has a similar role with Graceland. He wouldn’t release revenue figures.

Weinshanker said he expects several hundred thou-

sand visitors in the first full year of operations, which he said would make it the No. 2 museum dedicated to an entertainer behind Graceland.

He said most of the money is going toward preserving the building, which he said was in “grave disrepair” when Prince died, and toward protecting its contents. He said the heating and cooling system had to be replaced, some rooms where videos were stored had recent water damage, and valuable custom-designed outfits were improperly stored on wire hangers.

From April 20-23, Paisley Park will mark the anniversary of Prince’s death with Celebration 2017, which will include concerts and other programming. Acts scheduled to appear include The Revolution, Morris Day and the Time, New Power Generation, Liv Warfield and Shelby J., with members of 3RDEYEGIRL, the band Prince was nurturing when he died. Weinshanker said it will draw guests from 28 countries.

THE PROBATE CASE

Barring any surprises, six Prince siblings will get equal shares of his estate, which court filings have suggested is worth around \$200 million. Federal and estate taxes are expected to consume nearly half of that.

Judge Kevin Eide wrote

Lady Gaga will make history as female headliner at Coachella

NEW YORK (AP)—Lady Gaga will make history when she performs at the Coachella Valley Music and Arts festival this weekend, marking a decade since a solo woman has been billed as a headliner on the prestigious musical stage.

Beyoncé had been slated to headline the festival in Indio, California, but backed out because she's pregnant with twins. Björk was the last solo female to headline Coachella in 2007, so it begs the question: Why has it taken so long?

Women have always performed at Coachella, which

began Friday, since it was launched in 1999. In the last few years the number of female performers has grown, including acts that blend alternative and pop, such as Sia and Tegan & Sara, to mega genre-mashers like M.I.A., Janelle Monáe and Santigold.

Coachella is known as the festival for cool kids—and musicians. That leaves little to no room for acts that dominate Top 40 radio, where women have a strong presence, from Katy Perry to Rihanna.

Halsey, the Grammy-nominated singer who is readying



In this Feb. 5, 2017 file photo, Lady Gaga performs during the halftime show of the NFL Super Bowl 51 football game between the Atlanta Falcons and the New England Patriots in Houston. AP

Husband of Heart singer Ann Wilson sentenced in teen assault



In this Dec. 3, 2010, file photo, Ann Wilson of the band Heart performs onstage at the "VH1 Divas Salute the Troops" on in San Diego, Calif. AP

SEATTLE (AP)—The husband of Heart lead singer Ann Wilson has been sentenced for allegedly choking her nephews during a concert in suburban Seattle.

Seattlepi.com reported Friday (<https://goo.gl/6KoJxG>) that Dean Wetter pleaded guilty March 9 to two counts of assault. He was sentenced as part of a plea deal to 364 days in jail, with all the time suspended.

Wetter will pay restitution, be on probation, undergo counseling and have no con-

tact with the boys.

Court documents say the incident happened when then 16-year-olds were watching Heart perform in August 2016 and wanted to look inside Ann Wilson's tour bus.

Documents say Wetter started yelling after they left the door open, allegedly punching one of them in the head and grabbing him by the throat.

When the other teen stepped in, Wetter allegedly grabbed his throat "and squeezed to the point he could not breathe."

her second alternative album and had one of last year's biggest pop hits with "Closer" alongside the Chainsmokers, performed at Coachella last year. The 22-year-old said women who perform alternative music are often billed as pop artists because of their sex.

"Festivals like Coachella, they pride themselves on being part of the counterculture, being tastemakers, upholding themselves to a certain stan-

dard of the artists that they include, and I think one of the problems is that female artists are so often tainted as pop artists even when they don't necessarily intend to be," Halsey said. "Female artists can put

Mark Hamill: Carrie Fisher Star Wars tribute is 'therapy'

By SANDY COHEN
AP ENTERTAINMENT WRITER

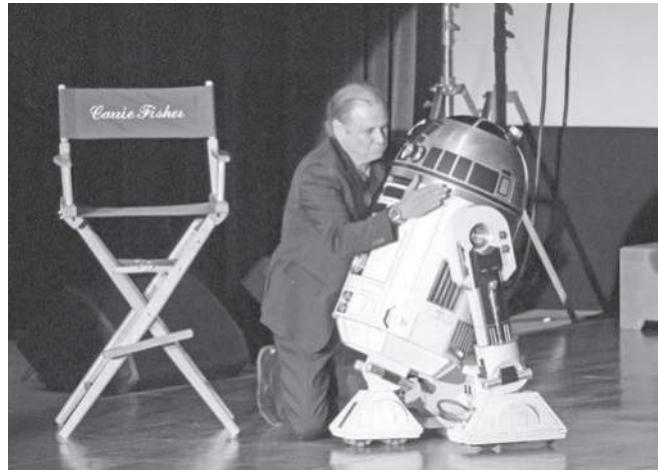
Mark Hamill says he's still grieving over Carrie Fisher's death, but sharing memories of his late friend and co-star with fans at Star Wars Celebration is "part of the process that I need to move on."

Hamill led an hourlong tribute to Fisher on Friday evening at the event in Orlando, Florida.

"I'm trying to use you as therapy to get through this together," the actor said. He called Fisher "my beloved space twin" and said they were also great friends off-screen.

They even shared a steamy make-out session once, he said.

"As attracted as I was to her,



Todd Fisher hugs Star Wars character R2-D2 at the Carrie Fisher and Debbie Reynolds Memorial Service at The Forest Lawn on Saturday, March 25, 2017, in Los Angeles. AP

I thought I couldn't handle her as a girlfriend. She's too much," Hamill said. "Part of me did fall in love with her. I think every guy... She had you under her spell."

Hamill told stories of visiting with Fisher and her moth-

er, Debbie Reynolds, in New York and attending incredible parties at their homes in Los Angeles. He also introduced video clips of George Lucas and "The Last Jedi" director Rian Johnson in which they share anecdotes about working with Fisher.

"Wait until you see her in 'The Last Jedi,'" Hamill added. "You're going to love her."

His voice cracked as he read a letter he had written shortly after Fisher died in December. He spoke of how he admired her intellect, attitude and sense of humor. Hamill said his personal and professional life would have been diminished had she not been part of them.

He said that while he's still in mourning, he's focusing on her legacy.

Everything set for woman's divorce except for legal fee

DEAR ABBY: I've always been a self-sufficient woman. I grew up in an abusive household, moved out at 16, and cut off contact with my family a couple of years later when it became apparent nothing would change.

Nine months ago, my husband walked out on me and our 3-year-old son. He has no interest in our child. Our roommate, "Matt," became "Daddy" to my son with my ex's blessing.

I want a divorce, but I'm not sure how to proceed. My ex and I have talked; he wants to give up his parental rights, and I have no interest in getting child support from him. All I want is my son.

I can't afford a lawyer right now because of some financial obligations my ex left me saddled with, but I don't want to put this off. If anything were to happen to me, my son would go to my ex instead of the man he considers his dad.

All my friends are either happily married or single, and I have no family to turn to for advice. I'm not religious, so I have no clergyperson to consult. Is there someplace I can turn to for help in ending this marriage, or do I just need to save up until I can afford legal counsel?

SINGLE MOM IN OREGON

DEAR SINGLE MOM: Your next step should be to con-

tact your state bar association and find out if there are low-cost legal services in your area. If both parties are in agreement, a divorce can be amicable and not expensive. I wish you luck; do not procrastinate.

DEAR ABBY: Some nights I talk in my sleep. It doesn't happen every night, and there is no rhyme or reason for it. Recently my husband told me I said something during my sleep that made him angry. He didn't want to get into a fight, so we haven't discussed it more. I suspect I may have been having an "adult" dream and said a name other than his.

Now he tries to stay up later than me. I think he may be trying to question me while I'm sleeping in order to get more information out of me on the subject. My doctor said there is no guarantee my response would be true or even related to the questions my husband asked me.

Should I confront my husband about whatever is bothering him, or keep stressing myself out about what I may be saying in my sleep?

NIGHT TALKER IN INDIANA

DEAR NIGHT TALKER: Definitely talk to your husband and try to clear the air, because avoiding the subject isn't healthy. If he's really suspicious because of

DEAR ABBY

By ABIGAIL VAN BUREN
UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Contact Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.



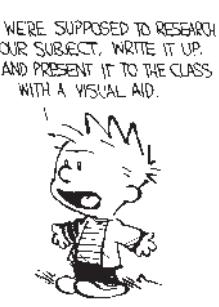
something you may have said while you were dreaming, discussing this together with your doctor may put his mind at ease.

However, if it doesn't, then I recommend you schedule a consultation for both of you with a sleep disorder specialist who can make clear that what people mumble during a dream sequence is not an indication of infidelity (or reality).

Good advice for everyone – teens to seniors – is in "The Anger in All of Us and How to Deal With It." To order, send your name and mailing address, plus check or money order for \$7 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby, Anger Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. (Shipping and handling are included in the price.)

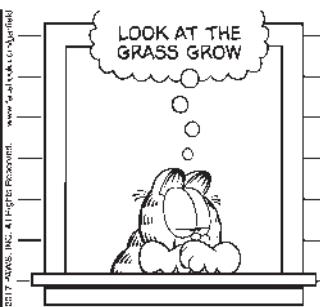
Pastimes

Calvin and Hobbes



By Bill Waterson

Garfield®



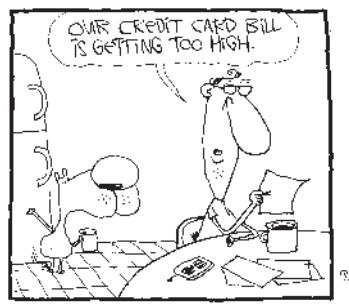
By Jim Davis

Adam@home



By Bryan Basset

The Duplex



By Glenn McCoy

CROSSWORD

By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS

- 1 Bit of butter
- 4 Coffee vessel
- 7 Bronx cheer
- 11 Exam format
- 13 Cattle call
- 14 Notion
- 15 Formerly
- 16 — de deux
- 17 Turf-war side
- 18 Bath sponge (Var.)
- 20 Opulent
- 22 Country singer McGraw
- 24 Corpulent
- 28 Self-indulgent "journey"
- 32 Bid
- 33 Seized vehicle
- 34 Rep.'s rival
- 36 "The Music Man" setting
- 37 Blood-sucker
- 39 Official pardon



Solution time: 26 mins.
Last Friday's Answer 4-17

For answers to today's crossword, call 1-900-226-5955! 99¢ per minute, touch-tone/rotary phones. (18+ only.) A King Features service, NYC.

STUMPED?

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Rooney Mara, 32; Jennifer Garner, 45; Liz Phair, 50; Sean Bean, 58.

Happy Birthday: Refuse to let trivial matters get to you this year. Live in the moment and make the most of each day. Strive to do your best and to get ahead using your charm, originality and ability to show great enthusiasm. Your attitude will make a substantial difference in the way things turn out for you. Nothing is too great to master. Your numbers are 2, 14, 22, 27, 34, 36, 40.

TAURUS (March 21-April 19): You have the drive to surpass anyone or anything that gets in your way. Stay focused and head for the finish line. Don't give in or let anyone sidetrack you. Make the most of your day and you will reap the rewards. ☀

TAURUS (April 20-May 20): Learn all you can and pay attention to what others do and say. Don't put your health at risk trying to keep up with someone who is careless or into things that can be harmful to you mentally, physically or financially. ☀

GEMINI (May 21-June 20): Search for new opportunities. Get involved in events that will present you with a chance to engage in interesting conversations with people who see things differently. Broadening your outlook will help you find greater balance, tolerance and personal growth. ☀

CANCER (June 21-July 22): Iron out any differences and move forward. Let your creative mind take over and you will come up with alternative solutions to a pending

partnership problem that is making what you are trying to accomplish difficult. Romance is highlighted. ☀

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22): Carefully consider any changes you want to make. Think with your head, not your emotions. A vocational mistake will be difficult to reverse. If you want to alter your life in some way, consider a domestic rather than a professional change. ☀

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): Set up your plan of attack and make a big splash. You've got what it takes to attract support and recognition using your skills and your ability to make things run smoothly. Don't be afraid to be different. Romance is encouraged. ☀

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22): Tone things down and turn inward. You cannot win a debate if you aren't fully prepared and in the right state of mind. Pick your battles wisely and choose a stable platform to present your case. Intelligence will far exceed bluster. ☀

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21): Learn from past mistakes and don't reveal information that might be used against you. Hone your skills and learn all you can about the ideas and projects that interest you the most. Make personal improvements a priority. ☀

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): Stick to your job and aim to finish what you start. Don't take on too much or incorporate unnecessary ideas if you want to avoid criticism. Someone close to you will be evasive to avoid hurting your feelings or making you angry. ☀

EUGENIA LAST

THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY

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CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): Ask questions, share thoughts and ideas and you'll come up with positive plans that can improve your relationships and the way you live. Host a gathering and you will be offered interesting responses and choices. ☀

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): Don't give up when an investigation will help you understand a discrepancy that has developed. Once you find out the best way to respond, you will find it much easier to put one foot in front of the other. ☀

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20): Offer consistency and reliability and you will be considered for a promotion. Don't let your past determine what you can do now. Believe in your abilities and rely on strength and courage to help you reach your goals. ☀

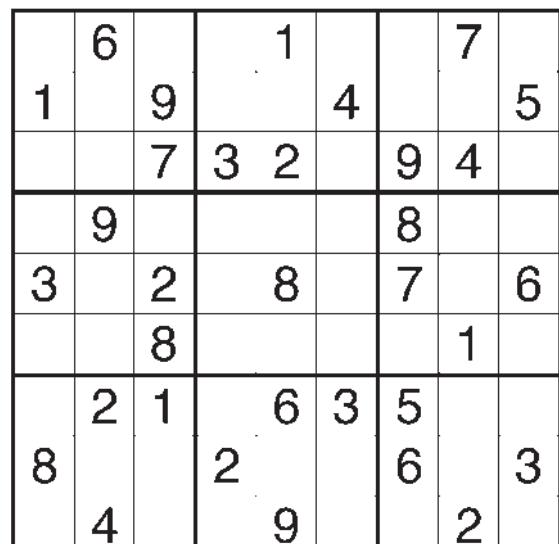
Birthday Baby: You are smart as well as goal-oriented. You are courageous and resolute.

Eugenia's websites -- eugenialast.com for Ask Eugenia, daily timing and compatibility services, and join Eugenia on twitter/facebook/linkedin.

SUDOKU

Conceptis Sudoku

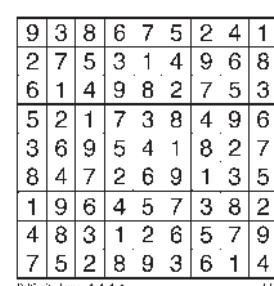
By Dave Green



Difficulty Level ★

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

Last Friday's Answer



WONDERWORD

By DAVID OUELLET

HOW TO PLAY: All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally and even backward. Find them, circle each letter of the word and strike it off the list. The leftover letters spell the WONDERWORD.

THE PATRIOTS — SUPER BOWL LI CHAMPIONS Sol.: 8 letters

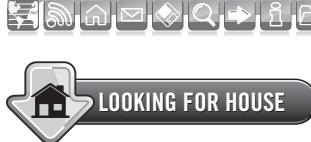


© 2017 Andrew Nobile www.WonderWord.com Download the WonderWord Game App! 4/17
Amendola, Belichick, Bennett, Bill, Branch, Brandon, Brown, Butler, Cameron, Cannon, Coach, Coleman, Dion, Edelman, Elandon, Flowers, Garoppolo, Geneo, Hogan, James, Jonathan, Jones, Julian, Kyle, Lengel, Long, Mason, Matt, McClellin, Michael, Mitchell, Ninkovich, Rowe, Ryan, Sheard, Slater, Team, Tom Brady, Trey, Valentine, Vincent, Waddle
Last Friday's Answer: Mixtures

To purchase **WONDERWORD** books,
visit www.WonderWordBooks.com, or call 1-800-642-6480.

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JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT #02-2017
Opening date: April 7, 2017

Closing date: April 28, 2017

- Positions:
 (2) Ports Police/ARFF Trainee (Tinian)
 (2) AOA Controller/Ground Maintenance-I (Tinian)
 (1) Custodial-I (Tinian)

Employment Application must be accompanied with a copy of all required diploma/certificates and/or official sealed transcripts, original copy of recent police record not more than six (6) months old, original copy of U.S. Department of Defense Form DD214 for retired members or veterans of our Armed Forces, and other documents as required for the position. Public Law 11-70 requires that all male applicants age 18 to 25 years old must submit documentation evidencing his registration with the Federal Selective Service System. All applications and required documents must be submitted to the CPA Administration Office, 2nd floor Arrival Building, Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport of CPA Administration Office West Tinian International Airport. Failure to provide any of the required documents will result in automatic disqualification. Certain vacancies may require written and/or physical test. Selected applicants will be subjected to pre-employment drug screening, 10 year Criminal History Record Check and 49 CFR Part 1542.209(d) requirements. CPA reserves the right to waive or implement other qualifications to meet its needs. The deadline for submission of applications and required documents to the CPA Administration Office (Saipan) or at the West Tinian International Airport is no later than 4:30 p.m., Friday, April 28, 2017.

Detailed information on qualifications and position description for the above positions shall be picked up along with the application form from Monday-Friday, 7:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., except on holidays, at the CPA's Administration Office (2nd Floor) of the Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport, Arrival Terminal or at the CPA Admin. Office at the West Tinian International Airport. For additional information, please contact the CPA Human Resources Office by email at cpa.personnel@pticom.com or by phone at (670) 237-6500.

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Executive Director

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dba Marine Quest

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\$7.50-\$8.50

- Must have Instructor License by certified Diving Association.
- Proficient in English and with good business communication skills.
- Can read and speak Japanese. Knowledgeable in computer programs such as Excel, Power Point, Word and any SNS update. Available to travel anytime and can work on flexible hours. Knowledgeable to operate, teach and fix scuba diving and snorkeling equipment.
- Completely responsible for the safety of divers.

Please submit your resume and copy of picture ID by email to okadayasaipan@gmail.com

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SAIPAN, MP 96950
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FACSIMILE: 670-234-5749
ATTORNEY FOR PETITIONER RONALD A. MUNA

**IN THE SUPERIOR COURT
OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE
NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS**

) CIVIL ACTION
IN THE MATTER) NO. 17-0090-CW
) NOTICE OF
OF THE ESTATE OF) HEARING AND
RAMON CABRERA) NOTICE OF
MUNA) CREDITORS
Deceased.) Date: April 27, 2017
Time: 9:00am
Judge: Joseph N. Norita

TO: THE GENERAL PUBLIC, ANY HEIRS, CLAIMANTS, OR CREDITORS OF THE LATE RAMON CABRERA MUNA OR HIS ESTATE:
NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN THAT RONALD A. MUNA has petitioned the Superior Court of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands to issue Letters of Administration for the Estate of Ramon Cabrera Muna, the deceased. The attorney for Petitioner is Charity R. Hodson, Attorney at Law, whose address is Plata Drive, Chalan Kiya, P.O. Box 502607, Saipan, MP 96950. The hearing on the Petition is scheduled to be heard on the date and time set forth above at the Superior Court of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands. All interested persons or entities should appear at the hearing. Any and all person, creditors, or entities having claims against the deceased or his Estate are hereby required by law to file their claims with the Clerk of Court within sixty (60) days of this publication or the claim(s) will be barred. A copy of your claim should also be sent to CHARITY R. HODSON, Attorney at Law, at the address herein-above indicated.

Dated this 7th day of April, 2017.
/s/ Clerk of Court/Deputy Clerk of Court

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CLEVELAND
(AP)—Their regular-season issues followed the Cavaliers into the playoffs. They didn't win their postseason opener as much as survive it.

The champions remain puzzling.

LeBron James scored 32 points and Cleveland, looking to flip a switch after a shaky-and-streaky regular season, began the postseason by escaping with a 109-108 victory over the Indiana Pacers on Saturday.

C.J. Miles could have won it for Indiana, but a player whom Cleveland's players and coaches call a "Cavs killer," missed a 14-foot jumper just before the horn.

Following the game, Miles sat silently at his locker in full uniform for 30 minutes before Larry Bird, the team's president of basketball operations, came in and patted him on the shoulder.

James refused to acknowledge how different things would be if Miles' shot had dropped.

"He missed," James said. "We won."

Playing in his 200th playoff game, James added 13 assists and six rebounds while winning his 18th consecutive first-round game.

However, it was anything but easy as the Cavs, who had a 10-point lead in the fourth quarter, had to withstand a strong comeback by the Pacers.

After a foul, Indiana inbounded with 10 seconds left and tried to run a play for star Paul George. But James came over to help J.R. Smith and double-teamed George, who was forced to pass to Miles. His jumper was on line, but short and the Cavs avoided a disastrous loss.

George was adamant that he should have gotten the ball back.

"I talked to C.J. about it," George said. "In situations like that, I gotta get the last shot. C.J. took it upon himself. I'm confident with all of my guys taking shots. That's not the issue. In that situation, I need the ball."

Miles didn't make any excuses.

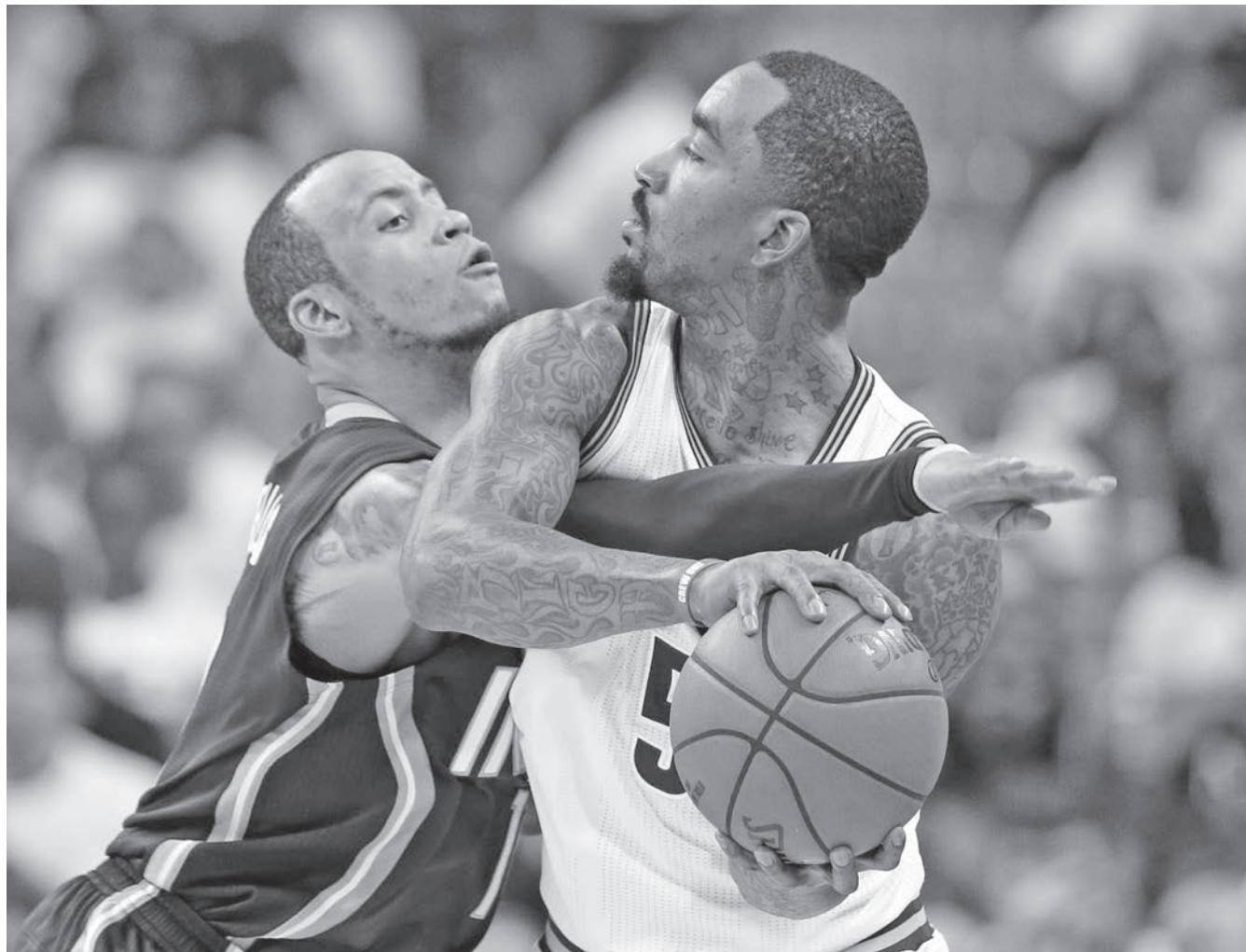
"Obviously, we wanted to get the ball to Paul to be able to get the shot to win the game," he said. "I got the ball at four (seconds), so I had to take it myself. I got a good shot. I just didn't make it."

James said the Cavs' plan on the final play was not to let George beat them.

"We wanted to get the ball out of his hands, make somebody else try to beat us and live with the results," he said.

Kyrie Irving added 23 points and Kevin Love had 17 for Cleveland, which has won 12 straight playoff games at home.

LeBron, Cavaliers edge Pacers in Game 1



AP

Indiana Pacers' Monta Ellis, left, puts pressure on Cleveland Cavaliers' J.R. Smith during the second half in Game 1 of a first-round NBA basketball playoff series, Saturday, April 15, 2017, in Cleveland. The Cavaliers won, 109-108.

Giannis Antetokounmpo made 13 of 18 shots, and added eight rebounds and three assists. Greg Monroe added 14 points.

DeMar DeRozan led Toronto with 27 points, and Serge Ibaka had 19 points and 14 rebounds. The Raptors have lost the opening game in eight consecutive playoff series.

Toronto's Kyle Lowry made only two of 11 field-goal attempts, missing all six 3-point efforts, and finished with four points. Jonas Valanciunas had nine points and nine rebounds.

Game 2 is Tuesday night in Toronto.

Spurs 111, Grizzlies 82

In San Antonio, Kawhi Leonard matched his postseason high with 32 points and San Antonio routed Memphis in Game 1.

LaMarcus Aldridge had 20 points, and Tony Parker added 18 to help San Antonio win its ninth straight over Memphis in the postseason.

Marc Gasol had 32 points, but only seven in the second half as the Grizzlies fell behind by as many as 36 points. Mike Conley was the only other Grizzlies player in double figures, finishing with 13.

Memphis was without defensive lynchpin Tony Allen. He's out indefinitely with a calf injury, and Leonard took advantage for his fourth career playoff game of 30-plus points.

Game 2 is Monday night in San Antonio.

George scored 29 points and Lance Stephenson had 16 for the seventh-seeded Pacers, who will try to even the series on Monday night.

Cleveland had several bad offensive possessions down the stretch and the Cavs went only 14 of 27 from the free-throw line.

After dropping their last four and going 10-14 since March 1, the Cavs entered the postseason appearing very vulnerable. It's too soon to say whether they have their act together, but for three quarters they looked more like a team capable of reaching its third straight Finals.

Irving dismissed the idea that Cavs feel vulnerable.

"Hell, no," he snapped. "Not going into the game with the group that we have."

Indiana played a solid all-around game, matching the Cavs at both ends and even out-rebounding them.

But, as usual, the Pacers couldn't contain James, who improved to 45-7 in the opening round and got the Cavs their first win—warts and all.

"I'm happy we go the victory," he said. "I'm happy how emotional we were. I'm happy with the energy and the effort. They made some big shots and some big plays, so I'm excited about that."

James has been on the receiving end of criticism for not taking the final shot, and was not about to criticize George for passing to Miles.

"If you're the best player on the floor, that doesn't mean you have to take the shot," James said. "I think he made the right play and you live

with the results."

Stephenson was huge off the bench, providing points and attitude.

He rejoined the Pacers on March 30 and was pivotal in them going 5-1 to make the playoffs.

"I just try to be a guy who makes smart decisions in attack mode, and take some of the pressure off Paul," said Stephenson, who previously played with Indiana from 2010-2014. "I think I did that today."

McMillan said he has no immediate plans to move Stephenson into the starting lineup.

Jazz 97, Clippers 95

In Los Angeles, Joe Johnson

drove the lane and lifted in a shot at the buzzer, and Utah overcame the loss of Rudy Gobert 17 seconds into the game to beat Los Angeles in their playoff opener.

Johnson had 21 points, including when he was left isolated against Jamal Crawford on the final play. He powered his way inside and lofted a shot over Crawford and DeAndre Jordan that bounced around the rim before falling in. A video review confirmed it was good.

Gobert sprained his left knee on the game's first play when he banged knees with Clippers forward Luc Mbah a Moute, leaving the Jazz without their 7-foot-1 center who averaged

14.0 points and 12.8 rebounds during the regular season.

Utah steadied itself behind two veterans brought in to balance the inexperienced Jazz. Johnson came up big off the bench and George Hill added 16 points.

Blake Griffin scored 26 points and Chris Paul added 25 points and 11 assists for the Clippers.

Bucks 97, Raptors 83

In Toronto, Giannis Antetokounmpo scored 28 points, rookie Malcolm Brogdon had 16 and the Milwaukee Bucks beat the Toronto Raptors 97-83 in Game 1 of the first-round series.

Playing in his second career playoff series, Antetek-

Dustin Johnson headed back to PGA Tour at Wells Fargo

WILMINGTON, N.C.
(AP)—Dustin Johnson's injured back must be feeling better.

The world's No. 1 player said he'll return to the PGA Tour at the Wells Fargo Championships at Eagle Point Golf Club from May 4-7.

The Wells Fargo Championship announced Johnson's status Thursday.

Johnson was among the favorites to win the Masters last week after winning three straight tournaments. But a fall at his rental home hurt his back the day before the year's first major was to start.

Johnson warmed up last Thursday on the Augusta National practice range and came out to the putting green near the first tee. But he headed off the course and with-

drew with a bad back.

Johnson said then he had planned to take three weeks off following the Masters.

Meanwhile, in South Carolina, Jason Dufner took more than a solid showing away from the Masters last week. He took inspiration from winner Sergio Garcia.

Dufner finished 33rd in the year's first major, things getting away from him late in the final round a week ago. But he took something from Garcia by managing his expectations and letting his game show through. And Dufner believes that's why he's got a one-shot lead heading to the final round of the RBC Heritage.

Dufner had two eagles on the way to a 6-under 65 to

move in front of Graham DeLaet (69).

Dufner, at 13 under, said he entered Harbour Town Links with low expectations, deciding that he'd gone through too many tournaments over-thinking how he was supposed to play or whose expectations he was supposed to live up to.

"That really gets in the way of playing well to be honest with you," said Dufner, the 2013 PGA Championship winner. "So I think I maybe learned a little bit from the champion last week, where he kind of lowered his expectations, and got out of his way, so to speak, and let his talent and his game plan take it from there."

Dufner's talent was on dis-



Ramirez hits 6 RBIs as Indians rout Verlander, Tigers



CLEVELAND

(AP)—

Jose Ramirez had the best day of his career. Justin Verlander had one of his worst.

Ramirez was 4 for 4 with a pair of three-run homers for Cleveland, and Verlander matched a career high by allowing nine runs Saturday in the Indians' 13-6 win over the Detroit Tigers.

"It's tough to say not to dwell on this, but I've been around long enough to know you can't go getting all depressed over one start," Verlander said.

Ramirez had a career-high six RBI with home runs in the first off Verlander (1-1) and in the eighth against Anibal Sanchez. The switch-hitter also had singles in the third and fifth innings.

Ramirez was greeted by a rhythmic chant of his first name from the Progressive Field crowd when he came to bat in the eighth. He responded with his home run and nearly beat Edwin Encarnacion, who was on base on front of him, to home plate.

"Sometimes it makes me laugh, and other times it really motivates me," Ramirez said through a translator. "It feels really good to have their support and I want to give something back to them for what they have given to me."

Verlander (1-1) gave up 11 hits in four-plus innings, including home runs by Carlos Santana and Lonnie Chisenhall. The 2011 AL Cy Young Award winner and MVP also gave up nine runs against the Chicago White Sox on April 6, 2008, and versus Texas on May 25, 2014.

Verlander fell to 19-22 against Cleveland, the most losses he has against any team in his career, and is 9-15 at Progressive Field.

Detroit manager Brad Ausmus said Verlander and catcher James McCann changed their signals throughout the game as a precaution against signs being stolen.

"I think it's kind of one of those things that you just cover your bases, make sure you're not allowing anybody to do anything," Verlander said.

In a matchup of aces, Corey Kluber (1-1) struck out eight in 6 1/3 innings, allowing six runs and eight hits. Verlander finished second to Boston's Rick Porcello in last year's AL Cy Young voting and Kluber was third.

Santana had three hits of Cleveland's 19 hits and four RBI, including a two-run homer in the second. Chisenhall added two-run drive in the third for the Indians, who had lost six of seven.

Santana drove in two more

with a fifth-inning single off Shane Greene, but both runs were charged to Verlander. Santana is 16 for 70 in his career against the Detroit ace, but has eight homers and 15 RBI.

Ramirez drove a 97 mph fastball from Verlander into the right field seats in the first. Santana's two-run shot came in the second while Chisenhall added a two-run homer in the third.

Mariners 5, Rangers 0

In Seattle, James Paxton extended his season-opening scoreless streak to 21 innings, Taylor Motter hit a three-run homer and Seattle beat Texas.

Paxton (2-0) threw eight innings of two-hit ball, walking one and striking out nine. He hasn't allowed a run yet in three starts this year, and his scoreless stretch is a team record to open a season. He's the 10th pitcher in the majors ever to start a year with three scoreless starts of at least six innings.

Twins 6, White Sox 0

In Minneapolis, Ervin Santana (3-0) pitched a one-hitter for the first complete-game victory by a pitcher in the major leagues this season, stopping Chicago's three-game winning streak.

Santana's (3-0) struck out eight, walked one and retired his final 18 batters. Chicago had just two runners: Omar Narvaez singled with one out in the third and Avisail Garcia walked leading off the fourth.

Jose Quintana (0-3) gave up hits to six of his first seven batters in a 39-pitch first inning, including Max Kepler's two-run triple.

Rockies 5, Giants 0

In San Francisco, Tyler Chatwood (1-2) pitched 5 2/3 perfect innings before Chris Marrero's single and finished with a two-hitter for his first big league shutout.

Nolan Arenado had three hits, including a home run off Matt Moore (1-2), who allowed five runs, 10 hits and three walks in 5 2/3 innings.

Dodgers 8, Diamondbacks 4

In Los Angeles, Yasiel Puig hit a three-run homer in the eighth inning and Los Angeles overcame a sloppy defensive game to beat Arizona.

Alex Wood (1-0) pitched 3 1/3 scoreless innings of relief to earn the win and Kenley Jansen got the last four outs for his third save.

Diamondbacks starter Patrick Corbin (1-2) struggled in his six innings, giving up five runs.

Yankees 3, Cardinals 2

In New York, St. Louis ace



Cleveland Indians' Jose Ramirez hits a three run home run off Detroit Tigers starting pitcher Justin Verlander during the first inning of a baseball game, Saturday, April 15, 2017, in Cleveland.

Dull combined to pitch six hitless innings for Oakland.

Carlos Correa left after being hit by a pitch on his right hand in the ninth, and Astros said an X-ray was negative.

Will Harris (1-0) struck out two in a scoreless seventh, and Santiago Casilla (0-1) was the loser.

Phillies 4, Nationals 2

In Washington, Cesar Hernandez hit a tiebreaking, two-run homer off Joe Blanton (0-2- in the eighth).

Jeremy Hellickson (2-0) allowed two runs and four hits in seven innings. Hector Neris pitched a perfect eighth, and Joaquin Benoit a 1-2-3 ninth for his first save since signing with the Phillies as a free agent during the offseason.

Marlins 5, Mets 4

In Miami, Christian Yelich and Giancarlo Stanton hit back-to-back homers against Fernando Salas (0-1) to cap a three-run eighth as Miami rallied from a 4-2 deficit.

Justin Bour and Marcell Ozuna hit consecutive homers for Miami in the second off Jacob deGrom, who tied a career high with 13 strikeouts in seven innings.

Asdrubal Cabrera hit a solo homer in the eighth against Junichi Tazawa (1-0) to put the Mets ahead 4-2. A.J. Ramos pitched a perfect ninth for his second save.

Braves 4, Padres 2

In Atlanta, winless at Turner Field, R.A. Dickey got a victory in his first appearance SunTrust Park. Atlanta has won three straight following a five-game losing streak, including the first two games at its new ballpark.

Dickey (1-1) gave up two runs and seven hits in six-plus innings with six strikeouts, allowing consecutive home runs in the second to Hunter Renfroe and Austin Hedges. The 42-year-old knuckleballer was pitching in his third Atlanta ballpark.

Royals 3, Angels 2

In Kansas City, Mike Moustakas' fifth home run this season, a drive off off Jose Alvarez (0-1), broke an eighth-inning tie.

Ben Revere had knotted the score in the seventh with a two-out RBI single against Joakim Soria (1-0).

Kelvin Herrera pitched a perfect ninth for his second save.

Carlos Martinez (0-2) put on a historically uneven performance, walking a career-high eight while striking out 11 in 5 1/3 innings. Martinez was the first pitcher since Randy Johnson in 1993 with at least eight walks and 11 strikeouts in a game.

The Yankees won their sixth straight despite tying a team record by fanning 17 times. They got plenty of help from sloppy St. Louis, which at 3-8 is off to its worst start in 20 years and has the poorest record in the NL.

CC Sabathia (2-0) took a shutout into the eighth. Jedd Gyorko and Stephen Piscotty homered late for St. Louis. Tyler Clippard got his first save, striking out Randal Grichuk with two on.

Blue Jays 2, Orioles 1

In Toronto, Kendrys Morales homered off Tyler Wilson (1-1) leading off the bottom of the ninth, and Toronto (2-9) stopped a seven-game losing streak.

Roberto Osuna (1-0) had allowed Jonathan Schoop's sacrifice fly in the top half.

Reds 7, Brewers 5

In Cincinnati, Jesse Winker doubled home the go-ahead run in the sixth off Carlos Torres (0-1) with his first major league hit, and Cincinnati overcame two more homers by Eric Thames and stopped Milwaukee's four-game winning streak.

Reds left-hander Brandon Finnegan came out of the game after the first inning because of a strained muscle in the back of his left side. The Reds already have three starters on the disabled list.

Pirates 8, Cubs 7

In Chicago, Andrew McCutchen hit a go-ahead, three-run homer of Pedro Strop (0-1) in a five-run seventh. Pittsburgh has won two straight against the Cubs after going 4-14 against Chicago last season, including 1-8 at Wrigley Field.

Francisco Cervelli and Starling Marte also homered for Pittsburgh on a hot, windy afternoon. Chicago led 6-2 before Marte's solo drive in the sixth inning off starter Jake Arrieta.

Trevor Williams (1-0) pitched a one-hit seventh.

Red Sox 2, Rays 1

In Boston, Chris Sale (1-1) struck out 12 over seven innings for his first victory with Boston, allowing one run and three hits.

Sandy Leon's broken-bat, bases-loaded ground out pushed across the tiebreaking run in the seventh. The Red Sox loaded the bases on two singles and a walk against Tommy Hunter (0-1).

Mitch Moreland homered for Boston.

Astros 10, Athletics 6

In Oakland, George Springer hit a two-run homer in the eighth as Houston rallied from a 5-0 deficit.

Sean Manaea and Ryan

Teachers rule Rocball championship series



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

The Teachers players pose for a photo after winning the 2017 Micronesia and U.S.A. Rocball Championship.

Returning Sharapova hits back at critics

GERMANY—Maria Sharapova has hit back at her critics as she prepares to make her return to competitive action at the Porsche Tennis Grand Prix in Stuttgart.

The 29-year-old will be back on the court after serving a 15-month doping ban for testing positive for meldonium at the 2016 Australian Open.

Sharapova, now unranked, has received wild cards to participate in Stuttgart, Madrid and Rome in an issue that has divided the sport.

While some, like Venus Williams and Boris Becker, are ready to welcome the Russian star back, others are not so welcoming, taking issue with the fact that she is not working her way back in.

"I've been serving my sentence," Sharapova said, as quoted on Tennis.com. "So why persist? Is there any reason to keep punishing me? I don't see it."

"When the case [details] were still a bit unknown, everyone had the right to judge. But now that I have been



through the Court of Arbitration for Sport, which is neutral, I say stop. If the players keep criticizing me, then that is not correct."

Sharapova also criticised the International Tennis Federation (ITF) for their handling of the ban of meldonium in January 2016—a drug she had been using regularly to assist with her colds and flu.

The former world number one played in the Fed Cup in Prague in November 2015 and claims ITF authorities knew she was taking it at the time but did not inform her that it was being monitored as a potential banned drug in the future.

"It was an ITF event," she added. "So why didn't someone come up to me and have a private conversation, just an official to an athlete, which would have taken care of the confidentiality problem they talked about later? But nothing was said by anyone."

"But ultimately the fault was mine. I had been getting clearance on everything I was taking for seven years and I became complacent. I got too comfortable. But then so did the ITF."

Meanwhile, world No. 1 Andy Murray believes Roger Federer can go on to win the Roland Garros if he continues his 2017 form in the second Grand Slam event of this year.

The Swiss tennis star called time on his 2016 season after suffering a knee injury following the semi-final loss to Milos Raonic at the Wimbledon. The 35-year-old has been in fine form since returning from injury and won the 2017 Australian Open, where he defeated Rafael Nadal in the final.

It was Federer's first Grand Slam title since winning the Wimbledon in 2012. He also went on to win the Indian Wells Masters and Miami Open that saw his ranking improved to world No. 4. After the success in Miami, he

decided to skip the clay-court season that takes place before the Roland Garros.

Murray played against Federer in the Match for Africa 3 exhibition match on 10 April. He explains why Federer can go on to win the Roland Garros, despite his decision to not take part in the clay-court season.

"If he plays like he did in the beginning of the season, he can definitely win. It won't be easy for him to play a Grand Slam event without playing any match on that surface, but he already showed in Australia that he feels comfortable also without playing too many matches. We will see," Murray explained, as quoted by tennisworldusa.org.

Meanwhile, Federer's backhand has been his strength and he has been playing that shot with more confidence in 2017. The Australian Open winner revealed he was struggling even to hit "slice backhand" and gave an insight on how he was successful in overcoming it.

following a 6-0, 6-1 triumph over Hyunmin Cho—a 6-4, 6-4 winner against Seung Won Lee in the opening round.

In the boys U12, Kang eased his way to the semis after drawing a bye in the first round and winning over Brandon Lee via walkover. Kang will be pitted against No. 3 Jae Yun Jung, who knocked out Park, 7-5, 6-4. The other semis pairing will have the No. 4 seed Andrew Chung facing the unranked Jiwoong Kwon. Chung eked out a 6-4, 7-5, 10-8 victory against Danny Lee to book a semis ticket, while Kwon eliminated Ming Gi Jung, 7-5, 6-0, and then stunned No. 2 seed Anthony Gregoire, 6-1, 6-3, to complete the Final Four cast in the division.

In the girls U12 singles, Ferrer headlines the semifinalists as she got a bye in the opening week and automatically moved into the Final Four opposite Helen Kim—a 6-0, 6-0 winner over Olivia Hwang. Yejin Son and Hye Jin Elliot also qualified in the semifinals after downing Ashley Choi, 6-0, 6-0, and No. 2 Annika Camacho, 6-4, 6-3, respectively.

In the girls U18 singles, the favored Heras went 2-0 in the round-robin contest to remain in the title contention. She first defeated Malika Miyawaki, 6-3, 6-3, and then also swept Grace Choi, 6-1, 6-4. Heras will be dueling Tania Tan this weekend to determine the champion in the division. Tan has a perfect record, too, having beaten Choi last Saturday, 6-1, 6-0, and Miyawaki yesterday, 6-4, 6-4.

Meanwhile, results in other singles and the complete doubles events will be reported later this week.

The Teachers topped the 2017 Micronesia and U.S.A. Rocball Championship after beating the Pound Stars in the best-of-five title series held at the Marianas High School grounds.

The Teachers sealed the title after prevailing in Game 4. They also won Games 1 and 3. The Pound Stars took Game 2 and missed the chance to grab the lead in the short series after bowing to the Teachers in Game 3 in double overtime.

The Teachers were led by Nick Gross, who was eventu-

ally named Finals MVP. Gross registered 23 points in the finals series after making three kees, three aces, one jam, and three goals. Troy "The Luther" Ngirarois was the heavy hitter for the Pound Stars with four aces, three kees, and one goal for 17 points.

Gross and company collected 85 points from the championship series off 25 aces, two xunks, five kees, four goals, and a jam. The Pound Stars were at their best in volleyball one-point court scoring and two-point backcourt scoring with 10 kees. (*Saipan Tribune*)

BERGANCIA

From Page 28

ble-round robin competition to end up with the field-best 26 goals. He was the only player in the division to score 20-plus goals this season, as runner-up Sean Gil of Kanoa-1 came up short after registering only 19.

The diminutive TanHoldings striker had his best output (five goals each) in their 9-5 win over Matansa last Feb. 25 and 9-1 victory over Kanoa-2 last March 4. In their first two games (versus MP United and Kanoa 1) and fifth match of the season (against MP United), he recorded two goals apiece, while he had four in their second meeting against Kanoa-1, and then had three

TWO

From Page 28

The 670 Sonics/PHI played better in the second half to start a streak this season after losing its debut. The Zachary Johnson-coached squad fell to the Ol'Aces Elite during the league's opener last month before bouncing back with 44-27 victory over Natibu Warriors last Tuesday. DYS/NMI Rollers also played two matches last week and was beaten by the Ol'Aces Elite, 67-56, last Wednesday.

DYS/NMI Rollers led the 670 Sonics/PHI at the end of the first half, 21-17, but the latter outgunned the former in the first 10 minutes and change of the second to overhaul the deficit and grab the lead. The 670 Sonics/PHI went on an 8-2 scoring spurt behind the two baskets apiece of Kristian Itayas and J.C. Ferrari to overtake DYS/NMI Rollers, which got its lone field goal in that slowdown from Chioni Dela Cruz.

The 670 Sonics/PHI never relinquished the driver's seat from thereon to take its second straight victory. Itayas top-scored for 670 Sonics/PHI with his 12 points, while Clarenz Contreras chipped in 8. Three other 670 Sonics/PHI players contributed at least 4 points apiece, while J.P. Cruz paced DYS/

each in TanHoldings' last two assignments (over Matansa and Kanoa-2).

Besides Bergancia and Gil, nine other players scored at least 10 goals apiece in the division's spring season, which concluded last April 8. TanHoldings' Mark Joseph Roque and Angelo Pulido earned 14 apiece to finish third, while there was a three-way tie for fourth with MP United's Andrew Chung and Garrett Weaver and Kanoa 1's Daniel Pablo scoring 12 apiece. Kanoa-1's Markus Toves was at solo fifth with his 11 goals, while MP United's Christopher Pascual, Matansa's Alex Megino, and Kanoa-1's Jim Kurt Maniago shared the No. 6 spot after collecting 10 each.

NMI Rollers with his 12 markers, and Matthew Ong and A.J. Hudkins added 11 apiece.

In the Ol'Aces Elite-DYS/NMI Rollers tiff, Rikko Saralu and Carlos Elchico teamed up in the former's second half attack to hand their team the double-digit winning margin.

The duo combined for Ol'Aces Elite's last 18 points to offset the 10 straight markers of Sunjoon Tenorio in the final 20 minutes of play.

Saralu and Elchico ended up finishing with 16 points each, while Duncan Laxa also earned twin digits with 13. Tenorio had a game-high 21 markers on a losing effort.

Wednesday Game

Ol'Aces Elite 67 — Saralu 16, Elchico 16, Laxa 13, Atan 6, Ogasawara 5, Toves 2, Ichihara 2, Diaz 2, Fleming 2.

DYS/NMI Rollers 56 — Tenorio 21, Cruz 15, Hudkins 14, Balerus 10, Dela Cruz 7, Roger 2.

Saturday Game

670 Sonics/PHI 45 — Itayas 12, Contreras 8, Tabora 7, Bayot 5, Ferrari 4, Bravo 2, Cadag 2, Sablan 2, Favor 2.

DYS/NMI Rollers 39 — Cruz 12, Hudkins 11, Ong 11, Dela Cruz 5.

Scoring by halves: 17-21, 45-39.

Vivid Blue at Pacific Ocean Cup VII

PHOTOS By ROSELYN B. MONROYO



Vivid Blue players from Japan huddle before playing against Southern United FC in the battle for third place game in the Pacific Ocean Cup VII held early this month at the Koblerville Elementary School Field.



Vivid Blue players have their fingers check by game officials.



Vivid Blue players celebrate after tying the game.



A Vivid Blue player, left, uses his hand to ward off a Southern United player.



Vivid Blue players shake hands with game officials and their counterparts at Southern United FC.



A Vivid Blue player is hounded by three Southern United defenders.



A Vivid Blue player keeps up with a Southern United striker.



A Vivid Blue player receives a pass from his teammate.



LeBron, Cavaliers
edge Pacers in
Game 1

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Saipan Tribune Sports

Ramirez hits 6
RBIs as Indians
rout Verlander,
Tigers

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SAIPAN TRIBUNE

Top seeds lead way in jr. tennis



ROSELYN B. MONROYO
Sean Lee makes a backhand return to Seong Eon Heo during the first set of their boys U14 singles game in the 2017 CNMI Junior Tennis Championships last Saturday at the American Memorial Park courts.

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

The top-ranked players in the 2017 CNMI Junior Tennis Championships lived up to high expectations as they survived the opening week of the competition at the American Memorial Park courts.

Robbie Schorr, who is seeded No. 1 in the boys U18 singles, slipped past Ken Song in three sets yesterday, 6-0, 3-6, 6-4, to move into the finals against Michael Ren. Song arranged a semis duel against Schorr following a 6-0, 6-4 triumph over Steve Goodwin last Saturday.

The unranked Ren, on the

other hand, downed Tony Kim in his first game, 6-2, 6-1, and then pulled off an upset over No. 2 Vincent Tudela, 6-3, 7-6 (7) in the semis to set up a title duel against Schorr.

Other top seeds who boosted their championship bids in the singles events were JC

Ferrer, Daniel Kang, Isabel Heras, and Sean Lee.

Lee advanced to the semifinals of the boys U14 singles after shutting down Seong Eon Heo last Saturday, 6-0, 6-0. Heo earned the right to

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Two in a row for 670 Sonics/PHI

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER



The 670 Sonics/PHI booked back-to-back victories in the boys U15 division of the 2017 Francisco M. Diaz Memorial Youth League after topping DYS/NMI Rollers, 45-39, last Saturday at the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium.

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ROSELYN B. MONROYO
The 670 Sonics/PHI's Christian Bravo stops his dribble and looks for a teammate to pass the ball to, while a Natibu Warriors player closes in on defense during the second half of their boys U15 division game in the Diaz youth caging last week at the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium.



Bergancia, Joyce get Golden Boot awards

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

TanHoldings Football Club's Anthony Bergancia and Kanoa FC' Paulynn Grace Joyce scored the most goals in their respective divisions to win the Golden Boot awards in the 2017 NMIFA Youth Spring League.



Joyce collected 18 goals in six games and was the only player in the girls U15 division to break into double figures despite failing to score in Kanoa's last two matches. She had back-to-back five-goal output in Kanoa's 15-0

rout of Matansa last March 11 and 10-1 triumph over MP United last March 18. The Hopwood Middle School student started the season by knocking in two goals in their 3-0 win over Paire last Feb. 18 and then tallied three apiece in Kanoa's next two games against TanHoldings (Feb. 25) and Southern United FC (March 4).

With her 18 goals, Joyce more than doubled the output of Shirley's FC's Jerlyn Castillo and fellow Kanoa players Ericka Santiago and Princess Alcantara, who earned seven apiece to tie for second

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Kanoa Football Club's Paulynn Grace Joyce, third left, battles two TanHoldings FC players for the ball during their first round game in the girls U15 division of the NMIFA youth league at the Francisco Mendiola Sablan Middle School Field.